MONDAY
June 24, 2024

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CBI sends teams to Patna and Godhra for NEET case probe

First information report says there were 'certain isolated incidents' in a few States during the May 5 test; Education Ministry has asked agency to conduct a comprehensive investigation and probe the role of public servants, if any, in the controversy

Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Sunday registered a case of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical programmes held on May 5.

"The process to take over the other cases related to the examination has also been initiated by the CBI for a comprehensive investigation," an agency official said. "Special teams are being sent to Patna and Godhra where local police cases have been registered," the CBI said.

Economic Offences Unit personnel leave with the accused arrested in connection with the NEET case, in Patna on Sunday. PTI

A first information report filed by the agency says there were "certain isolated incidents" in a few States during NEET conducted by the National Testing Agency in 4,750 centres for over 23 lakh candidates.

"Therefore, the Ministry of Education has requested the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities, including conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust, and destruction of evidence by candidates, institutes, and middlemen, including attempted irregularities," the agency said.

The Ministry has requested it to investigate the role of public servants, if any, connected to the conduct of the examination or the larger conspiracy.

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Maharashtra ATS detains two teachers from Latur

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

The Nanded branch of the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad on Saturday night detained two teachers from Latur district in connection with the NEET-UG question paper leak case.

Sources said Sanjay Tukaram Jadhav and Jaleel Umrakhan Pathan were released after several hours of questioning, but they could be called for further questioning.

Suraj held in sex abuse case; probe handed over to CID

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

One more member from the family of Janata Dal (S) leader and former Minister H. D. Revanna is in the eye of a storm as his son and JD (S) MLC Suraj Revanna was on Sunday arrested by the Hassan police after being questioned in connection with a case of alleged sexual abuse of a 27-year-old man, registered against him in Hassan late on Saturday.

The State government has handed over the case to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Suraj Revanna, JD(S) MLC, being brought to a judge's house at Koramangala in Bengaluru after he was arrested in an alleged case of sexual abuse, on Sunday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Medical examination

On Sunday, Dr. Suraj was brought to Bengaluru by the Hassan police following his arrest. He was produced before the magistrate of Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs, at his residence at Koramangala here after he was subjected to a medical examination. The judge then remanded Dr. Suraj in judicial custody for 14 days.

Well-placed sources said that the handover of the case to the CID was yet to be completed and the investigation agency would likely move for the MLC's custody soon.

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Jual Oram promises to look into Great Nicobar clearances

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry will be looking into the forest clearance paperwork for the ₹72,000-crore infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island that the NDA government has been pushing for, and accordingly determine next steps, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram has said.

In an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu*, Mr. Oram outlined his intent to give special attention to forest and land rights of tribal communities.

Jual Oram

The Opposition Congress has been demanding the withdrawal of clearances granted for the Great Nicobar project and a ground-up review of it over the environmental concerns flagged by experts and constitutional bodies and amid reports of alleged violations of land rights of the tribal people residing in the region.

Asked about the concerns raised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the NCST over the environmental and forest clearances, Mr. Oram said, "This is a specific case. It will take time to go through the files. But we will be looking into the issues that have been raised by calling for the relevant files and documents."

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Hungry herd

On the move: Elephants in search of food cross National Highway 17 at Boko on the outskirts of Guwahati on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Wait for PU textbooks continues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Almost a month after classes for pre-university (PU) courses began in the State for the academic year 2024-25, textbooks are not available in the market. Without textbooks, students are finding it hard to study.

The Department of School Education (Pre-University) and the Karnataka Text Book Society have been blaming each other for the delay.

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NEARBY

Ashwamedha gallops to financial success

BENGALURU
KSRTC's Ashwamedha Classic buses, introduced this February, have been successful in generating over ₹10 per km more than what the Karnataka Sarige buses earn, according to the corporation. » Page 3

KIOCL: HDK's charge against State govt.

BENGALURU
Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday accused the State government of taking a "unilateral decision" over stopping the execution of the mining lease in favour of KIOCL. » Page 8

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Police fear Manipur groups trying to acquire drones

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

In the wake of the recent seizures of intelligent flight batteries and drone parts in Assam, armed forces officials posted in the conflict zones in Manipur believe unmanned aerial vehicles could be used by the warring groups in the State for attacks.

On June 14, 10 intelligent flight batteries were seized from a Manipur-based man in a vehicle at a toll gate about 30 km east of Guwahati. A day later, another person was caught from the Rupnagar area in the Assam capital carrying drone parts on a two-wheeler.

While Khaigoulen Kipgen, 27, of Gamngai village in Kangpokpi district of Manipur, apprehended at the toll gate, was found to have links with Kuki-Zo extremist groups, the police said the parts seized from Sanjib Kumar Mishra in Guwahati were destined for Meitei outfits involved in the conflict.

Warning sign: Intelligent flight batteries used in drones seized from a Manipur-based man on the outskirts of Guwahati on June 14. ANI

"These seizures following reliable input about the unauthorised transportation of drones and related equipment for armed groups on either side of the ethnic divide in Manipur could be the tip of the iceberg," an Assam Police officer of the Inspector-General rank said.

He did not rule out the possibility of intelligent flight batteries and drone parts slipping through checkpoints on the arterial National Highway 27 leading to Manipur, via Nagaland, and an alternative route from Silchar in the Barak Valley of southern Assam.

A few days ago, Lieutenant-General Pradeep Chandran Nair, Director-General of Assam Rifles, said that some 5,400 refugees from Myanmar in Kamjong district of Manipur feared aerial attacks.

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» PAGE 14

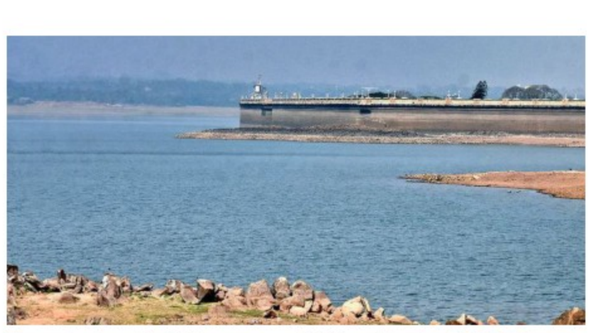
Inflow into KRS hasn't brought cheer yet owing to sluggish rains in Kodagu

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

After three weeks of the onset of monsoon, the inflow into the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) across the Cauvery continues to be precarious owing to sluggish rains in the catchment area of the river in Kodagu district.

Consequently, the rate of inflow into the KRS on Sunday was 1,214 cusecs while the reservoir level was hovering at 87.62 ft as against the full reservoir level of 124.80 ft.

The scenario is similar for other dams in the Cauvery basin as well though the weather forecast indicates that the monsoon was expected to gather vigour in the days ahead.



The water level in KRS was around 88 ft. on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

Red alert

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), citing the India Meteorological Department, has issued a red alert for heavy rains, thunderstorm and gusty winds for Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan – which are the catchment areas for the Cauvery and its tributaries and could augment the rate of inflow to the reservoirs in the days ahead. Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru have received rainfall that was 47% below normal and have slipped into 'deficit' category with respect to cumulative rains from June 1 to 23, according to KSNDMC.

The gross storage in KRS was 14.56 tmcft as against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft while at Kabini the gross storage was 9.01 tmcft as against the capacity of 19.52 tmcft. Hemavathi had 10.82 tmcft of water as against the gross storage capacity of 37.10 tmcft while Harangi had 3.28 tmcft as against the reservoir capacity of 8.50 tmcft as of Saturday.

Meanwhile, Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy said in Mandya on Sunday that the storage in KRS was still not conducive to release water for crops though it may be released for replenishing lakes and recharging the groundwater table.

Speaking to presspersons, he said a decision on taking water into the canals would be taken in due course but it would be to facilitate lakes in the tail-end region to get replenished. Besides, there were areas that were still dry and water was required for cattle and domestic animals, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy added.

In reply to queries, the Minister said the question of releasing water for crops would arise only when the water level at KRS reached 110 ft or more. "At present it is hovering around 87 ft (as against the full reservoir level of 124.80 ft) and we are expecting rains in the catchment area soon," he said.

M BG-BGE

An agonising green meltdown in a cold and damp USA

Amir, experienced Amir, nerveless Amir, incredibly gifted Amir. By the time he was done with a super over that seemed to last an eternity, he had conceded 18, but only one boundary, a four. Incredible? Indeed. Seven runs came through wides and overthrow wides. Was this an impostor?

K.R. DEEPAK

R. Kaushik
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

After smashing two successive fours off Arshdeep Singh, Naseem Shah put his head down and dejectedly, reluctantly completed a single, off the last ball of the contest. As he looked up, the tears streaming down his cheeks were visible. A familiar, unwelcome foe - cold, cruel defeat - had wrapped him in its embrace; it was all just too much for Pakistan's express fast bowler.

The setting was the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, but it might well have been SuperSport Park in Centurion or Old Trafford in Manchester, the MCG in Melbourne or the Wanderers in Johannesburg, venues where Pakistan has tilted at Indian windmills in cricket World Cups - of the 50- and 20-over varieties - and come off second best.

India holds a perfect 8-0 record in the 50-over format, while last fortnight's six-run heist in New York was its seventh win in eight face-offs in T20 World Cups. Pakistan's sole victory, by a commanding ten wickets in Dubai in October 2021, is an aberration, no matter how comprehensive it might be, no matter that it catalysed the end of the management era of Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri in a depressing morass of doom and gloom.

The New York loss was especially galling for multifarious reasons. Pakistan's target was 120, numerically miniscule but worth several more on a treacherous surface. It was still well within reach of a good batting line-up against an inarguably fantastic bowling attack led expertly by Jasprit Bumrah. No matter the conditions, top teams would expect, and be expected, to get the job done even against other top teams eight times out of ten, if not more. This was one that got away, India's stranglehold that took it home helped along by tameness, timidity and lameness, traits one doesn't always associate with Pakistan cricket.

A red, white, and blue humbling

What made the defeat even more depressing, if that was possible, was the tournament context. It was Pakistan's second consecutive loss and, even with two matches still to play, the Men in Green's future was no longer in their own hands. How could it be, when they had allowed their nerves to get the better of them and been schooled by novices United States in their opening fixture?

As far as upsets go, this must rank as among the most famous in sporting history. A team of part-timers, as an American with no more than passing interest in cricket put it, felling the former champions. David coming swinging and connecting with hefty punches to send Goliath sprawling. A software engineer coding the impossible, a local talent honed overseas shaking up the established order. It was unforgettable drama staged in the theatre that is the T20 landscape on the greatest stage there is in the cricket world. How could it not exhilarate? How could it not sting?

The two Super Overs showcased the best and worst of 20-over cricket. Each was sent down by a left-arm seamer. In the green corner was Mohammad Amir, a former teenage prodigy whose career path took an unexpectedly dark turn owing to indiscretions that were only partially excused because of his influential age at the time of his infractions. In the red, blue and white corner was Saurabh Netravalkar, an international when also in his teens, but at the junior level. At an age when Amir was counting the damage of his spot-fixing follies, Netravalkar was playing for India's Under-19 side, including under KL Rahul at the World Cup in New Zealand in 2010. After a solitary Ranji Trophy appearance for Mumbai, Netravalkar realised that cricketing ambition might not be matched by commensurate climbs up the ladder, so he made the move west in search of greener professional pastures. Until destiny, and the US, gave him what India couldn't - an international cap.

Amir went first in the Super Over after USA had taken 11 off the last three balls of regulation play, delivered by Haris Rauf, to push the match into the decider in Dallas. Amir, experienced Amir, nerveless Amir, incredibly gifted Amir. By the time he was done with an over that seemed to last an eternity, he had conceded 18, but only one boundary, a four. Incredible? Indeed. Seven runs came through wides and overthrow wides. Was this an impostor?

United States turned to Netravalkar for a miracle, and he obliged. Without any show of pressure or anxiety. Maybe he didn't feel the pressure because no one expected anything other than a Pakistan victory, but how could he not feel the pressure stemming from pride in performance? In an admirable show of control and courage, he kept Pakistan at bay. Comfortably, at that. No stutter to the crease, no nervy half-tracker, no sweaty palms. This was sensational stuff. Was he an impostor, too?

The genesis of Pakistan's first-round elimination from the T20 World Cup lies in that fateful night in Dallas. Now, it's time to apply salve, hope the wounds heal in quick time, and somehow find the wherewithal and resilience to address and overcome the mental scarring. After all, that will determine how the future unravels.

More ebb than flow

Such has been Pakistan's lot - and yo-yoing performances - over the years that they have forever been adjectivised with 'explosive', 'unpredictable', 'mercurial'. Not all these are used charitably or complimentarily. Pakistan has often been its worst enemy, though the Men in Green have also found ways and means to rouse themselves when it came to the crunch because they were blessed with strong leaders, none more so than the incomparable Imran Khan. Now, there is a massive leadership vacuum, even if Babar Azam is the designated captain.

Babar is an exceptional batter, especially in the two longer formats, but he is no inspirational leader or a tactical genius. From all accounts, he is a very nice person, and being nice and aggressive don't have to be mutually exclusive, but he doesn't command attention on the field, he doesn't have the swagger of a general, he doesn't stride around like a colossus. He may not so much be a captain by consensus, and one might be doing him gross disservice by basing assumption on appearances if not for the fact that those closely associated with Pakistan cricket confirm that he isn't the brown trousers sort of leader.

It hasn't helped Pakistan's cause, at least at this World Cup, that heading into the competition, the team swapped captains like an ambidextrous shooter switching hands at a circus. Babar made way for Shaheen Shah Afridi made way for Babar in the months leading into the World Cup. The blame for that must lie at the feet of the decision-making group, those that pick and sack captains. It's hardly the most encouraging development when the team's best bowler is stripped of the captaincy not long before the biggest T20 competition in the universe though to his credit, Afridi has been nothing but the ultimate team man even if he hasn't had the returns to show for his efforts.

Wildcard picks

Pakistan brought Amir and Imad Wasim out of the wilderness for the World Cup because of their exploits in the Caribbean Premier League and their familiarity with the conditions here, perhaps taking safe passage to the Super Eights from Group A for granted. As it turned out, they didn't even make the trip to the Caribbean; their campaign was restricted to Dallas, New York and Fort Lauderdale. Had Amir and Imad delivered in the event of Pakistan progressing deep in the tournament, their recalls would have assumed proportions of a masterstroke. Now, they appear presumptuous and disrespectful of oppositions, even if that wasn't the intention.

In the aftermath of their humbling exit, question marks have been raised over other selection calls, including those involving Iftikhar Ahmad and Azam Khan, son of former skipper and wicketkeeper Moin. These are inevitable fallouts of a doomed campaign. Fingers are also being pointed at the conservative approach of Pakistan's batters, not least their openers, Babar and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan. Conveniently overlooked is the fact that with much the same personnel and approach, Pakistan made it to the final of the last edition before losing a tight final to England at the MCG. But public memory is generally short, and nowhere is it shorter than in Pakistan, where a failed campaign is shrouded in an even more diabolical hue when it is accompanied by a loss to India.

Insiders whisper about fissures in the unit, but that's nothing new when it comes to Pakistan cricket, is it? At the best of times, they have been a house divided but somehow united in the common pursuit of cricketing glory. In Imran, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram during his early days in that role, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Misbah-ul-Haq, they had strong and inspirational leaders -- some quiet and others outlandishly outspoken - who knew what it took to keep an outfit together and how to get their colleagues to set personal differences aside.

Pakistan team players' obsession with social media, and their compulsive reactions to the venom spewed therein, hasn't helped either. Several decisions are influenced, it is said off-handedly by those who claim to be in the know, by popular opinion, which can't be a healthy development if it is true. Pakistan is ranked seventh in the ICC T20I rankings, fourth in the ODI charts, sixth when it comes to Test cricket and currently occupy the fifth position in the World Test Championship points table. These don't necessarily point to a team in terminal decline, but remedial measures are required, immediately, if a gradual upward climb is to materialise.

THE GIST

- The reverse against India was Pakistan's second consecutive loss in the tournament and, even with two matches to play, the Men in Green's future was no longer in their hands
- It hasn't helped Pakistan's cause, at least at this World Cup, that heading into the competition, the team swapped captains like an ambidextrous shooter switching hands at a circus
- Pakistan is ranked seventh in the ICC T20I rankings, fourth in the ODI charts, sixth in Tests and currently occupies the fifth spot in the World Test Championship table

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A month after PU classes begin in State, textbooks are still not available

Department of School Education (Pre-University) and Karnataka Textbook Society have been blaming each other for the delay in printing books

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With the textbooks not in their hands, some students of I and II PU have been using old ones. FILE PHOTO

Although it has been almost a month since pre-university classes began in Karnataka, textbooks of I and II PU are still not available in the market. While some students have sourced old ones, most of them are unable to access textbooks.

Meanwhile, State government sources blame the delay in printing PU textbooks this academic year to a lack of communication between the Department of School Education (Pre-University) (DSE(PU)) and the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS).

The KTBS issued a work order for the printing of textbooks only on June 6, even as the PU classes started on June 1 for the academic year 2024-25. To add to the students' woes, the DSE(PU) recently gave its approval for the dummy of all textbooks, essentially a green signal to print them in bulk. So, if the textbooks are to reach the hands of the students, it may take another month, sources said.

The government has adopted the State Board syllabus for Arts and Commerce. These textbooks are printed by the KTBS and are yet unavailable. However, the governent has adopted National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks for Science. These textbooks are also printed by the KTBS and are also not available in the market presently.

"Twenty days have already passed since classes started. However, no matter how many times I inquired with books stores, I could not find the textbooks anywhere. Some students bring old textbooks to colleges. Without textbooks, it is not possible to study properly," complained Amit Kumar, a II PU student from Bengaluru.

The DSE(PU) and the KTBS have been blaming each other for the delay in printing textbooks.

"There has been no delay from our department regarding submission of indent for the textbooks. By the end of January we did so. The KTBS is yet to supply the textbooks," said Sindhu B. Rupesh, Director, DSE(PU).

However, the tender process for the printing of textbooks was delayed owing to the late indent by the DSE(PU) and the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections, claim KTBS officials. "The DSE (PU) gave approval to the dummy of textbooks only recently and the printing is in progress. Textbooks will be supplied soon," said Prema H.M., Managing Director, KTBS.

With transfer rules in a tangle, new assistant professors are awaiting placement

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The placement of newly appointed assistant professors through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has been halted for four months. This follows objections raised against the Special Transfer Guidelines issued by the Collegiate Education Department on February 26, 2024, by assistant professors who are already in service.

What is the issue?

A total of 1,242 vacant posts of assistant professor in government first-grade colleges were taken up to be filled through the KEA, and the government issued appointment orders for candidates who have been selected for 1,208 posts in 26 subjects.

Meanwhile, the Collegiate Education Department issued Special Transfer Guidelines to create vacancies for the placement of the newly appointed assistant professors.

According to the Karnataka State Civil Services (Transfer of College Education Department Teaching Staff) Rules, 2021, newly appointed assistant professors will be allocated to 'E' zone colleges as per the available workload. In case the required number of vacancies are not available in the 'E' zone, those working in the 'E' zone will be transferred to 'D', 'C', 'B', and 'A' zones (A being urban and corporation areas) to create vacancies.

> We have decided to seek the opinion of the Advocate-General to amend the rule of minimum length of service before transfer. Depending on his opinion, the government will consider the next step.
>
> **SRIKAR M.S.,**
> Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department

In the guidelines, the department has abandoned the criterion that assistant professors should have served in their present posting for at least three years to be transferred. Following this, many with less than a year of service have also been considered for special transfer, drawing the ire of many.

The department had released a list of around 1,200 assistant professors currently working in the 'E' zone for transfer, which includes 21 with less than one year of service there, 190 with less than two years of service, and around 10 with less than three years. These people opposed the new guidelines and submitted objections.

The department then revised the schedule of transfer counselling and extended the date for submitting the objections in February 2024. While the model code of conduct for the parliamentary elections impeded any further process, the department has not taken any action regarding the transfer process even after results are out.

Rules will be amended

Srikar M.S., Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, told *The Hindu*:, "According to the Karnataka State Civil Services (Transfer of College Education Department Teaching Staff) Rules, 2021, initial appointment of assistant professors in the department should start from the 'E' zone only. However, a case is pending in the High Court that might have an impact on the overall appointment system... We have decided to seek the opinion of the Advocate-General to amend the rule of minimum length of service before transfer. Depending on his opinion, the government will consider the next step," he said.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed assistant professors have demanded that the government to give them placement immediately.

UGCET-2024: Offline verification of documents from tomorrow

A file photo of students at the Karnataka Examinations Authority office for document verification for CET.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Offline document verification for UGCET-2024 applicants will take place from June 25 to 29 at the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) office in Malleswaram. This is specifically for candidates who have applied under eligibility clauses B, C, D, I, J, K, L, M, N, and Z.

H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA, announced this in a press release on Sunday, instructing the candidates concerned to personally attend the verification process. Those who have claimed eligibility under clause Y are exempt from this requirement, as per the release.

This process applies to candidates seeking admission in Engineering, Architecture, Yoga & Naturopathy, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Agriculture Science Courses [BSc (Honours) Agriculture, BSc (Honours) Sericulture, etc], BSc (Nursing), B Pharma, second year B Pharma, and Pharma-D courses.

Bodies of missing 19-year-old girl and 50-year-old man recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The bodies of a 19-year-old student and a 50-year-old man, who had been missing for the last three days, were recovered from the Mavathur lake in Koratagere taluk of Tumakuru district on Sunday.

The man has been identified as Rangashamanna, a resident of Bhairagondlu village. He owned an electrical shop and was married with two children, said the police.

The identity of the girl has also been determined and a police investigation has now revealed that the two were in a relationship for several months now.

Family's objections

According to the police, the girl's family members reportedly came to know about the relationship recently and objected to the same, following which she went missing for the last four days.

The parents had also filed a missing complaint with the jurisdictional Kolala police.

Both the families and the police made efforts to search for the girl and Rangashamanna. The police also traced the location of the girl's phone to the Mavathur lake on Saturday. When the police reached the lake, they found two pairs of footwear and mobile phones belonging to the duo. The police, along with the Fire and Emergency Services personnel and divers, conducted a thorough search, before recovering the bodies on Sunday.

The Kolala police have sent the bodies for postmortem and registered two separate cases of unnatural death reports for further investigation.

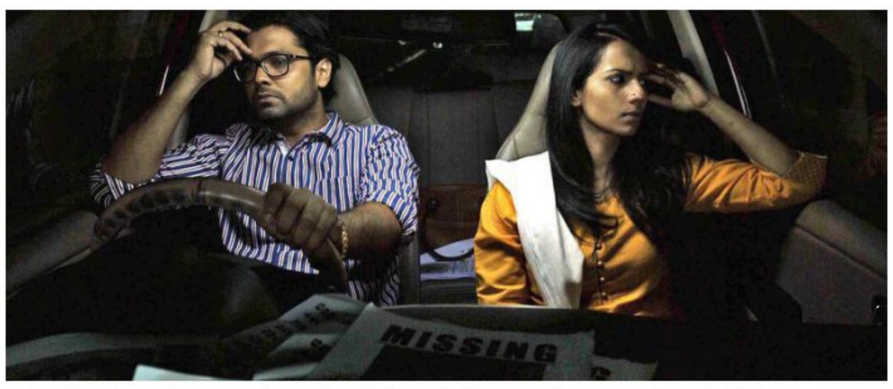
(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help)

CCB registers FIR against moneylenders for cheating Kannada producer Pushkar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch officials have registered an FIR against moneylenders under various sections of the Karnataka Money-Lenders Act, 1961, for allegedly cheating and threatening Kannada producer Pushkar M.

The FIR was registered based on a complaint by Kishore Kumar, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies.



Rakshit Shetty and Sruthi Hariharan in a still from *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu*. This was among the films produced by Pushkar M.

Mr. Pushkar, who produced movies such as *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu* and *Kirik Party*, reportedly suffered financial losses during the pandemic and sought help from his relative Adarsha D.B.

According to the complaint, Adarsha promised to get him a personal loan at 5% monthly interest. Mr. Pushkar borrowed ₹5 crore betwee 2019 and 2023, and so far repaid ₹9.6 crore, through bank transactions on different dates, along with ₹1.9 crore in cash to Adarsha and his associates .

The accused, according to the complaint, started demanding ₹13 crore more claiming it was the interest, and threatened him with dire consequences if he did not pay up.

The accused even sent recovery agents to Mr. Pushkar's house and office to threaten and intimidate him, according to the complaint.

Unable to bear the harassment, Mr. Pushkar found that the accused were running a moneylending business and approached the Registrar of Cooperative Societies with a complaint.

CREDAI State Conclave from today

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) will hold its two-day State Conclave 2024 in Mysuru on Monday and Tuesday.

More than 400 members of different chapters of CREDAI in Karnataka will be participating in the two-day conclave to be held at Silent Shores resort in Hootagalli on the outskirts of Mysuru.

According to a statement issued by Srihari D., president of CREDAI, Mysuru Chapter, the conclave is expected to discuss real estate development, adoption of new technologies in the construction sector, problems faced by the real estate industry and solutions.

Experts from the real estate industry will speak at various sessions during the conclave, which is scheduled to be inaugurated by Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa, who is also the Minister in charge of Mysuru district.

Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture K. Venkatesh, MLAs from Mysuru viz. G.T. Deve Gowda, Srivatsa, Tanveer Sait and Harish Gowda, besides MLC C.N. Manje Gowda and MUDA Chairman Mari Gowda are expected to attend the inaugural event.

The sessions to be held include "East of Doing Business" to be addressed by senior officials from the Government of Karnataka, 'A case study on the biggest and most successful affordable housing project in India', 'Inspiring Construction Projects', 'Manthan - a holistic discussion on plotted development', 'Hybrid sewage treatment plant projects', 'Ready to use concrete modules' and 'Landscaping' etc.

CREDAI is a national organisation with chapters in 21 States, a press statement said.

B.K. Singh to supervise probe against Suraj Revanna also

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of brothers Suraj [left] and Prajwal Revanna.

B.K. Singh, chief of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the alleged crimes of ex-MP Prajwal Revanna, will supervise the probe into the sexual abuse case against his elder brother Suraj Revanna as well.

However, the case against Dr. Suraj has not been handed over to the SIT, but to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

A 1996-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Mr. Singh is presently posted as Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP), CID, and will supervise the probe into the case against Dr. Suraj in that capacity.

The Hassan district police are yet to hand over the case to the CID formally and will do so on Monday. Dr. Suraj was remanded in judicial custody on Sunday evening.

However, once the CID takes over the probe, they will seek his custody, sources said.

An order issued by the ADGP (Law and Order), however, only mentioned case number 92/2024 of the Holenarsipur Rural police station [case against Dr. Suraj for allegedly sexually abusing a man] to be transferred to the CID.

A day before this case was registered, the Holenarsipur Town police registered a case (168/2024) of extortion and blackmail against the alleged sex abuse victim, based on a complaint by Dr. Suraj's associate Shivakumar H.L.

The order on Sunday doesn't mention this second case to be transferred to the CID.

There is no clarity whether this case, related to the other one, will be transferred to the CID or not.

BJP to launch poster campaign today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the anniversary of imposing the Emergency, the BJP is set to launch a poster campaign in Bengaluru on Monday demanding that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tender a public apology for it.

Freedom Park protest

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, and MLCs C.T. Ravi, N. Ravikumar, and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy will be participating in the protest being held at the Freedom Park here.

'Draconian measure'

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Mr. Ravi remarked that the Congress that imposed the Emergency was yet to apologise to the country for such a draconian measure even after 49 years.

Describing it as a dark phase, he alleged that such a measure had indicated the selfishness of the Congress which was ready to do anything for the sake of power.

Bengaluru tourist drowns in Abbe Falls

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A youth from Bengaluru drowned at Abbe Falls in Hosanagar taluk on Sunday.

Vinod, 26, from Ballari, working in a private company in Bengaluru, visited the falls with a group of people. The group arrived at the the falls after visiting Kodachandri.

According to eyewitnesses, he slipped on a wet surface and fell in. Efforts to trace him continued until late in the evening.

D. Rajashekhar appointed in-charge V-C

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the tenure of N.R. Bhanumurthy, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru, which ended on Friday, D. Rajashekhar, Director, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, was appointed as in-charge Vice-Chancellor on Saturday, until a regular Vice-Chancellor is appointed or until further orders, according to a notification.

Nuclear study provides major update on plutonium isotope fission

Researchers have reported the results of the first attempt to measure the PFNS of induced fission in Pu-240 with neutrons of energy greater than 0.85 MeV. They found significant deviations from values predicted by models, with implications for reactor design, radiation shielding, and nuclear medicine

Vasudevan Mukunth

On March 4 this year, India stepped on the threshold of the second stage of its nuclear power programme when engineers started the core-loading process of the prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) at the Madras Atomic Power Station, Kalpakkam. While the first stage used uranium isotopes as nuclear fuel in pressurised heavy-water reactors to produce plutonium-239 (Pu-239) and energy, the second stage is more concerned with plutonium fission.

When a Pu-239 nucleus captures a neutron, it has a 27-38% chance of becoming Pu-240 instead of undergoing fission. It is thus present in many nuclear reactors and in the fallout of nuclear weapon tests. When Pu-240 captures a neutron, it most often turns into Pu-241. On the off chance it does undergo fission, however, there is a significant amount of uncertainty about the energy carried away by its fission products. Researchers currently use models that incorporate several complicated calculations based on theory to estimate the output.

Only the second time

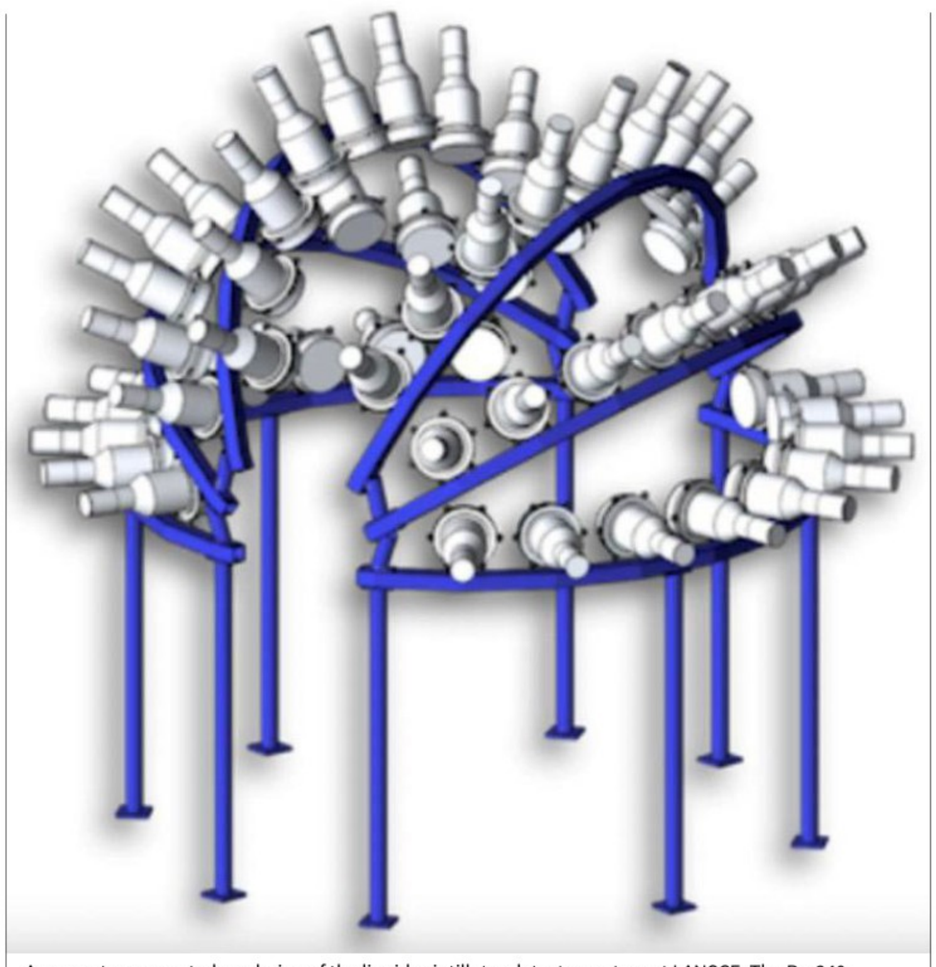
A part of the fission energy carried away by neutrons is called the prompt fission neutron spectrum (PFNS). The 'prompt' stands for neutrons a Pu-240 nucleus might emit right after it has captured a neutron with enough energy to destabilise it, but before the nucleus has reached a stable (or equilibrium) state.

So far there has only been one study that attempted to study the PFNS of induced fission in Pu-240, where neutrons that bombarded the Pu-240 nuclei had an energy of 0.85 mega-electron-volt (MeV). Recently, researchers in the U.S. reported only the second attempt ever to measure the PFNS of induced fission in Pu-240, and the first to use neutrons of energy greater than 0.85 MeV.

Their findings, reported in the journal *Physical Review C* on June 13, note significant differences between the predicted and the measured PFNS after induced fission. This information will be useful for researchers in various fields, from reactor designers to practitioners of nuclear medicine.

"The PFBR uses plutonium recovered from CANDU spent fuel and so will contain ample quantities of Pu-240. And if the spent fuel arising from the PFBR is reprocessed, that too will contain Pu-240," M.V. Ramana, a professor at the University of British Columbia, told *The Hindu*. "Therefore any new information about how Pu-240 behaves will be relevant."

CANDU is a Canadian design for pressurised heavy-water reactors, such as those India uses for its first stage.



A computer-generated rendering of the liquid scintillator detector system at LANSCE. The Pu-240 sample is located at the centre and neutrons intended to bombard the sample enter from the bottom left side. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

A profile of Pu-240

Pu-239 is produced when U-238 is exposed to neutrons of certain energy in a reactor. Because Pu-239 captures neutrons to become Pu-240 at a fixed rate, Pu-239 left in the reactor for a certain duration will accumulate a predictable quantity of Pu-240. The two isotopes are hard to separate, so as Pu-240 builds up, the spent fuel is pulled out.

Pu-240 undergoes spontaneous fission, i.e. without 'external' neutrons striking it first, and emits alpha particles. For these reasons, the isotope is considered a contaminant of weapons-grade plutonium, where its composition by weight is restricted to under 7%. There are some ways to use higher quantities of Pu-240 to build a nuclear weapon, however.

Generally, if a mass of plutonium contains more than 19% of Pu-240, it is considered to be reactor-grade rather than weapons-grade.

> When a Pu-239 nucleus captures a neutron, it has a 27-38% chance of becoming Pu-240 instead of undergoing fission. It is thus present in many nuclear reactors and in the fallout of nuclear weapon tests

The test setup

The new findings are based on a test conducted by researchers at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Centre (LANSCE) in the U.S. They struck a tungsten disc with pulses of protons, which produced neutrons of energy 0.01-800 MeV. Those neutrons moving 15 degrees to the left of the proton beam were redirected to a chamber containing 99.875% pure Pu-240.

An array of liquid scintillators – substances that emit flashes of light when struck by energetic particles – arranged around the Pu-240 sample tracked its output. The Pu-240 weighed all of 20 milligrams; the researchers wrote in their paper that they used such a small sample to minimise the amount of alpha particles emitted.

With this setup, the researchers measured the energies of the neutrons emitted by the sample as well as of other fission products.

Because they were interested in particles of a specific origin (neutron-induced fission), extracting the corresponding PFNS data from the overall data required the researchers to carefully subtract contributions from spontaneous fission, alpha particles, and other sources. After doing so, they reported their analysis for incident neutrons of energies 1-20 MeV.

Updating nuclear data libraries

In addition to deviations between PFNS predicted by models and those observed in the test, the researchers also reported a higher-than-expected rate of second-chance fission of Pu-240: when a nucleus isn't fissionable but becomes so after losing a neutron. They also reported finding signs of "a smaller contribution from third-chance fission" but added that this "was difficult to observe in the data directly".

Models that predict the outputs of nuclear reactions are based on data libraries pieced together from various experiments, reactor operation records, simulations, and other sources. For example, applications of the ENDF library prepared by the U.S. National Nuclear Data Centre include research on nuclear reactors, radiation shielding design, calculating radiation dose in nuclear medicine, investigating the trafficking of nuclear materials, and to understand the origins of elements in the universe. Other such libraries are JEFF-3.3, prepared by the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency, and JENDL-5.0, by the Japan Atomic Energy Agency.

The PFNS paper concluded that only the JENDL-5.0 library included "both multi-chance fission and pre-equilibrium neutron emission processes" and that the ENDF/B-VIII.0 and JEFF-3.3 libraries "contain multi-chance fission but not pre-equilibrium". "However," it continued, "there are also clear differences observed in the [energy levels] relating to the magnitude of second-chance fission in the data, as well as a possible energy shift in the thresholds relating to the pre-equilibrium neutron emission process preceding fission."

THE GIST

- A part of the fission energy carried away by neutrons is called the prompt fission neutron spectrum. 'Prompt' stands for neutrons Pu-240 might emit right after it has captured a neutron with the energy to destabilise it
- Pu-240 undergoes spontaneous fission, and emits alpha particles. The isotope is considered a contaminant of weapons-grade plutonium, where its composition by weight is restricted to under 7%
- Researchers also reported a higher-than-expected rate of second-chance fission of Pu-240. They also reported finding signs of 'a smaller contribution from third-chance fission' but added that this 'was difficult to observe in the data directly'

BIG SHOT

A Long March-2C rocket carrying the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM), a satellite developed by China and France, takes off in Sichuan province of China on Saturday. SVOM will study gamma-ray bursts. Shortly after launch, a booster from the rocket dropped over a populated area in Guizhou province as people ran for cover. VIA REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Complex PTSD: When trauma persists...

Karthik Vinod

Around 4% of the world's population has suffered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at some point, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

PTSD is often associated with war veterans, survivors of sexual violence and typically anybody who has lived through a life-threatening situation. They often experience anxiety, flashbacks, and nightmares. But health workers have also recorded PTSD symptoms among people who have suffered repeated bullying, emotional abuse, and/or neglect. These individuals include children bullied or gaslighted since a young age and someone who has suffered domestic abuse for many years. They are said to have complex PTSD, or cPTSD.

For these individuals, flashbacks and nightmares are only the tip of the iceberg of symptoms. As a result of the lack of a nourishing living environment, they have been known to develop a crippled sense of self. Apart from anxiety issues rooted in a negative self-image and/or issues with self-confidence, they also display a difficulty trusting other people and trouble maintaining friendships or romantic relationships.

cPTSD was listed as a standalone diagnosis in the 11th edition of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, or ICD-11, in 2018. In 2019, the WHO also recognised cPTSD as a separate mental health disorder.

cPTSD was listed as a standalone diagnosis in the 11th edition of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems in 2018 ADRIAN SWANCAR/UNSPLASH

We don't yet know how prevalent cPTSD is in the general population. Researchers have estimated it is 1-8%.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

KSRTC's Ashwamedha gallops to financial success

Launched this February, the service is operated by KSRTC on point-to-point routes between district headquarters and Bengaluru, as well as other towns and cities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation's (KSRTC) Ashwamedha Classic buses, which were introduced this February, have been successful in generating over ₹10 per kilometre more than what the Karnataka Sarige buses earn per kilometre, according to the corporation.

The new buses, branded Ashwamedha Classic with the tagline 'Journey Redefined', are operated by KSRTC on point-to-point routes between Bengaluru and various district headquarters, as well as other towns and cities.

According to KSRTC officials, Bengaluru-Mysuru, Bengaluru-Hassan, and Mangaluru-Dharmasthala routes are particularly popular. FILE PHOTO

KSRTC officials have stated that the non-stop service, which ensures timely arrivals without intermediate stops, has been appreciated by the public. "KSRTC Sarige buses generate revenue of ₹44 to ₹50 per kilometre, while the new Ashwamedha Classic buses generate revenue of ₹52 to ₹62 per kilometre. This increase has been attributed to more passengers using the point-to-point services of the Ashwamedha Classic buses," said a KSRTC official.

> KSRTC Sarige buses generate revenue of ₹44 to ₹50 per km, while the new Ashwamedha Classic buses generate revenue of ₹52 to ₹62 per km. This increase has been attributed to more passengers using the point-to-point services of the Ashwamedha Classic buses
> **KSRTC OFFICIAL**

> I usually take these buses to Bengaluru and reach in two hours. Other Sarige buses take more time and stop at Mandya, Maddur, Ramanagara, and other places.
> **RAVI KUMAR,**
> A regular passenger from Mysuru

"Point-to-point buses offer non-stop service, eliminating the need for conductors. At the starting point, drivers issue tickets. In contrast, other services require conductors to issue tickets. Most of the Ashwamedha Classic buses operate without conductors, reducing crew expenses and increasing profitability," the official added.

The Ashwamedha Classic buses have 50 seats each and are equipped with front and rear LED destination boards, pneumatic doors with sensors, and an emergency button. It has high back seats with quality cushioning, magazine pouches, and water bottle holders.

Passengers are also happy that KSRTC offers such point-to-point services. Ravi Kumar, a regular passenger from Mysuru, said: "I usually take these buses to Bengaluru and reach in two hours. Other Sarige buses take more time and stop at Mandya, Maddur, Ramanagara, and other places. Therefore, these buses are preferable to us."

Another passenger, Prasana Murthy from Bengaluru, mentioned that the seats in the Ashwamedha Classic buses are not very comfortable for him.

"However, the buses are in good condition since they are new. The routes these buses are running on are also a good," he added.

According to KSRTC officials, Bengaluru-Mysuru, Bengaluru-Hassan, and Mangaluru-Dharmasthala routes are particularly populars.

They also noted that there is demand for Ashwamedha Classic buses on other routes as well.

Rainbow Drive Layout: Tahsildar seeks genuineness of land conversion order

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East tahsildar has written to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner asking about the genuineness of land conversation order in Rainbow Drive Layout, located off Sarjapur Road, which is often flooded during heavy rains.

The Hindu has learnt that the tahsildar has written to the jurisdictional Executive Engineer (EE) in connection with alleged encroachment of storm-water drains in the area, that leads to flooding.

A view of the Rainbow Drive Layout after heavy rains in 2022.

What HC said

In 2023, the Bengaluru East tahsildar issued notices and the BBMP prepared for demolition of 13 villas. The residents approached the High Court of Karnataka, which has now said the BBMP should not demolish the homes. If the BBMP wants to build a rajakaluve (storm-water drain), the civic body should acquire the land.

In his letter dated May 21 to the EE, the tahsildar said two guntas of land under survey number 16/3A and 16/3B that were converted, along with 35 acres, to facilitate the layout is 'A kharab' land, and not 'B kharab'.

In these two guntas, there are drains connecting from the upstream lakes of Halanayakanahalli and Junnasandra to Savalukere lake.

He further wrote that, during hearing of a writ petition filed by residents of the layout, the Revenue Department has informed the court that it is 'A kharab' land and not 'B kharab'.

In May, a revenue official told *The Hindu* that the tahsildar wrote to the DC seeking details to how 'A kharab' land was converted to allow a residential layout.

The revenue official said 'A kharab' land cannot be converted. However, there are provisions to convert 'B kharab' land for private purposes. The conversion was permitted in 1999 by the then Deputy Commissioner.

The revenue officer said it appears that the land was converted despite knowing it was 'A karab', by fabricating documents. To know how the land was converted, it is necessary for the present DC to provide details, which have now been sought.

Fear of residents

A resident of Rainbow Drive Layout alleged that the conversion was illegal because there are rajakaluves in the layout.

"As the High Court of Karnataka has now said that the BBMP is at liberty to establish drains after acquiring the land, the civic body should act fast. If it rains heavily again, the layout will be flooded," said the resident.

701 more errant auto drivers booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing their crackdown on errant autorickshaw drivers, the West Division traffic police, which launched a special drive on Saturday, have booked 701 drivers for violating traffic rules.

The drive was launched following public complaints. The police conducted random checks across the West Division and booked 701 drivers for various violations. As many as 162 drivers were booked for demanding excess fares, 202 for refusing to go on hire, and 337 for various other violations.

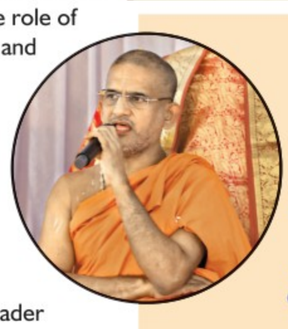
The police, posing as customers, approached the drivers and caught them red handed, a police officer said.

Since Saturday, the traffic police have booked 1,500 cases.

READERS CONNECT INITIATIVE

Sri Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swamiji's Visit to Vishwa Vidyapeeth:
HONOURING GURUS AND ENRICHING VALUES

The serene campus of Vishwa Vidyapeeth School was graced with the presence of Sri Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swamiji of Pejawara Mutt during the revered Guruvandana ceremony. This significant event celebrated the indispensable role of Gurus in society and honoured their contributions to holistic education and societal harmony.



This memorable event will be cherished by the Vishwa Vidyapeeth community for years to come, reinforcing the timeless values imparted by Swamiji. As the school continues its journey of holistic education, the teachings of Sri Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swamiji will serve as a guiding light, inspiring students and educators to strive for excellence in all aspects of life.

Sri Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swamiji, a revered spiritual leader known for his profound wisdom and commitment to promoting education and cultural values, addressed the gathering with an inspiring message. He emphasized that a Guru should engage in selfless service and impart wisdom to others, thereby instilling good manners in children and fostering a harmonious society.

Swamiji highlighted the importance of duty, asserting that if everyone faithfully performed their responsibilities and regarded them as acts of worship, opportunities for fraud and deceit would be eradicated. He explained that a Guru, through their actions and teachings, serves as a guiding light for society, much like a beacon that illuminates the path for others to follow.

Drawing from the Bhagavad Gita, Swamiji elaborated on how Lord Krishna, using Arjuna as a medium, conveyed profound teachings to ensure societal prosperity. He emphasized that the Guru's role is essential for the moral and spiritual upliftment of society, as their guidance helps individuals navigate through life's challenges with integrity and wisdom. The attendees received blessings and prasadam from Guru Pujya Pejavara Shri, creating a deeply spiritual and enriching experience for all. The atmosphere was filled with reverence and gratitude, as the community came together to celebrate the timeless values imparted by Sri Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swamiji.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 24	
RISE	05:56 SET 18:49
RISE	21:13 SET 07:55
TUESDAY, JUN. 25	
RISE	05:56 SET 18:49
RISE	22:02 SET 08:56
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 26	
RISE	05:56 SET 18:49
RISE	22:48 SET 09:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid Night will be pleasant Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount infused by FPIs in Indian equities in June

12,170 in ₹ crore. Foreign investors staged a comeback after the the election results in Indian equities, driven by expectations of continued policy reforms. PTI

Number of infra projects hits by cost overrun in May

458 Infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or above, were hit by a cost overrun of more than ₹5.71 lakh crore in May this year, according to the MoSPI. PTI

The funds needed to repair the damage by Cyclone Remal

237.6 in ₹ crore. Mizoram has requested monetary assistance from the Centre for rehabilitation of people and for the repair of damages caused by Cyclone Remal. PTI

Domestic exhibitors to participate in the garment fair

350 Domestic players and foreign buyers from more than 50 nations will participate in the garment fair, beginning on June 25, according to the Apparel Export Promotion Council. PTI

Number of people killed in North Gaza in Israeli strikes

39 The Palestinian Civil Defence said it pulled approximately the same number of bodies from a building hit by an Israeli strike in an eastern neighbourhood of the Gaza City. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What are the duties of a Speaker?

What does the office of the 'Speaker *pro tem*' mean? What does the Constitution state? Who elects the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha? How can the impartiality of the Speaker's office be preserved? What are the main roles of the Speaker?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:
The President has appointed seven-time MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as the 'Speaker *pro tem*' of the 18th Lok Sabha. The election of the full-time Speaker is scheduled for June 26. There are also reports of the Deputy Speaker being offered to one of the allies of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a post that has been held by the Opposition since the 10th Lok Sabha (1991).

Who is Speaker *pro tem*?
Article 94 of the Constitution states that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha shall not vacate his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after its dissolution. This is to ensure that the office of the Speaker is never left vacant. Hence, Om Birla who was the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha continues in that post till June 24 when the first meeting of the 18th Lok Sabha is scheduled. Article 95(1) of the Constitution provides that when the post of Speaker and Deputy Speaker is vacant, the President shall appoint a member of the Lok Sabha to perform the duties of the Speaker. This would be the situation when the first meeting of a new Lok Sabha commences.

Hence, the President appoints 'Speaker *pro tem*' under this provision till the full-time Speaker is elected. The term '*pro tem*' means 'for the time being' or 'temporary'.

This term is not found in the Constitution or rules of Lok Sabha but is a conventional term which finds mention in the 'Handbook on the working of Ministry of Parliamentary affairs.' As per tradition, one of the senior-most members of the Lok Sabha is selected by the government, who is then administered oath by the President. The Speaker *pro tem* administers oath of office to other MPs and presides over the election of full-time Speaker. In the 18th Lok Sabha, Bhartruhari Mahtab of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been appointed as Speaker *pro tem*.

Important role: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan with MP Bhartruhari Mahtab on March 28. PTI

How are the Speaker and Deputy Speaker elected?
Article 93 of the Constitution states that the Lok Sabha shall choose two members to be its Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The election of the Speaker is held on a date fixed by the President. All the Speakers in independent India have been elected unopposed. The election of Deputy Speaker is held on a date fixed by the Speaker.

What is the role of the Speaker?
Apart from the conduct of business, the Speakers perform two important constitutional functions of certifying a Bill to be a Money Bill (over which the Rajya Sabha has limited role), and deciding on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule for defection. In discharging these roles in the past, the Speakers have invariably favoured the ruling dispensation, something that should be avoided.

The Lok Sabha rules provide the Speaker with the powers of referral of Bills introduced to Standing Committees and suspension of members for grave disorder up to a maximum of five days. Referral of Bills to committees have declined from 71% during 2009-14 to 16% during 2019-24. With the return of a coalition government, it is expected that the Speaker would refer important Bills to Standing committees for scrutiny. There were also large-scale suspensions of Opposition MPs during the winter session of 2023. Such suspensions affect the robust functioning of Parliament and should be carried out with restraint.

What are the conventions?
In Britain, the Speaker once elected to his/her office, resigns from the political party to which he/she belonged. In subsequent elections to House of Commons, he/she seeks election not as a member of any political party but as 'The Speaker seeking re-election'. This is to reflect his/her impartiality while presiding over the House. Somnath Chatterjee, who was the Speaker of the 14th Lok Sabha acted independently by not resigning from the post despite his party's (CPM) direction after it had withdrawn support from the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government during a confidence vote in 2008. While the Tenth Schedule allows a Speaker to resign from their political party on being elected to their office, it has never been done by any Speaker till date. Resignation from their political parties on being elected as Speaker could be a first step towards demonstrating independence.

The Deputy Speaker is an important constitutional officer who steps in during the vacancy or absence of the Speaker. The convention of offering the post of Deputy Speaker to the Opposition started in the year 1991. Thereafter, till the 16th Lok Sabha this has been followed without a break. It was a travesty of the Constitution that no Deputy Speaker was elected in the 17th Lok Sabha.

The healthy convention of the post being held by Opposition should return in the current Lok Sabha.

Rangarajan.R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil-service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The President has appointed seven-time MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as the 'Speaker pro tem' of the 18th Lok Sabha.
- Article 94 of the Constitution states that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha shall not vacate his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after its dissolution.
- The Deputy Speaker is an important constitutional officer who steps in during the vacancy or absence of the Speaker.

How is methanol procured and used as liquor?

Was the Kallakurichi incident the first time that methanol poisoning has come to light?

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:
The Kallakurichi illicit liquor tragedy that has so far claimed more than 50 lives is entirely familiar in its cause, sequence of events, and aftermath. Such tragedies happen periodically across India in various States. Almost all the postmortem reports of the victims attribute the cause to methanol consumption.

How are ethanol, methanol made?
Ethanol is legal liquor for consumption. It is produced biologically whereas methanol is produced from fuels such as coal in India. Molasses, which are a by-product of the sugar making process, form the starting material of distilleries that are often located close to sugar factories. They produce rectified spirit which is distilled further to produce edible extra neutral alcohol that in turn goes into making Indian Made Foreign Liquor, a lucrative cash cow for State governments. During ethanol production in responsible distilleries, methanol is also produced but is carefully removed since the processes are highly controlled.

Methanol is produced from coal and other fossil fuels. While ethanol can be made edible, methanol is poison. Even very low concentrations of methanol can be toxic, often fatal. However, it is needed to produce a range of products that are highly useful. Paints, for instance, can't be produced without methanol.

Is methanol easy to procure?
Just like ethanol, methanol is a highly controlled substance. Rules in Tamil Nadu ensure the manufacturing, transportation and storage are all licenced, monitored and the quantity and quality audited.

In northern Tamil Nadu, much of the methanol used in industries is sourced from Andhra Pradesh. Ground reportage suggests the existence of a lucrative methanol pilferage racket operating enroute and at the end-user side as well.

It is possible that methanol formed during the crude distillation process, adopted by the bootleggers at Kallakurichi, wasn't removed, leading to methanol poisoning. However, the widespread nature of contamination and scale of the Kallakurichi tragedy suggests that methanol was procured and supplied separately, either as part of a brew or alone in a diluted form. Given that illicit liquor has been produced and distributed widely here over many months, possibly years, methanol use was not a one-off event that happened only this fateful week at Kallakurichi.

Why is methanol used?
Most of the hooch tragedies in India occur due to methanol contamination in liquor. Street wisdom, or belief rather, may well be that the relatively inexpensive but potent poison that is methanol, if diluted enough, could provide the same effect as ordinary liquor – a state of intoxication or 'kick' for consumers.

Prosecutors in the 2015 Malvani, Mumbai hooch tragedy case in which more than 100 people died and some 75 were injured argued that all the accused had entered into a criminal conspiracy, and deliberately procured and supplied poisonous methanol. Lawyers defending the accused argued that their defendants would not knowingly add methanol. It made no business sense. And bootleggers, just like in Kallakurichi, live amidst the community. They provide a service that is much in demand and wouldn't want to kill their own folk. The additional sessions judge S. D. Tawshikar, in the Malvani case, acquitted 10 of the 14 accused but convicted four. The judge did not find anyone guilty of violating the Poisons Act of 1919. The four were convicted of criminal conspiracy, and culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

What needs to be done?
The periodic occurrence of methanol poisoning suggests the need for strong central legislation that can work with State legislation. Various laws such as the Poisons Act that involves State governments can tighten the methanol supply chain. The implementation of laws holds the key, especially when there are plans to ramp up the production of both ethanol and methanol for use as cheaper, eco-friendly alternatives to petrol and diesel for transportation.

The NITI Aayog has talked of ramping up methanol production from two metric tonnes to 20. Keeping methanol and ethanol separate and not allowing any pilferage should be a national priority.

THE GIST

- The Kallakurichi illicit liquor tragedy that has so far claimed more than 50 lives is entirely familiar in its cause, sequence of events, and aftermath. Almost all the postmortem reports attribute the cause to methanol consumption.
- Methanol is produced from coal and other fossil fuels. While ethanol can be made edible, methanol is poison.
- The periodic occurrence of methanol poisoning suggests the need for strong central legislation that can work with State legislation.

With Suraj's arrest, legal woes mount for Revanna's family

While Prajwal is in police custody on rape charges, Revanna was arrested and later released on bail in an abduction case and his wife Bhavani got anticipatory bail in the same case

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

With the arrest of Suraj Revanna, JD(S) MLC, for allegedly sexually abusing a 27-year-old man, who claimed to be a JD(S) worker, the whole family of former Minister H.D. Revanna, based out of Hassan, seems to be entangled in legal troubles.

As of now, Prajwal Revanna, former Hassan MP, who lost the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is in police custody on three rape charges. He is accused of sexually abusing several women, including house help and party workers, among others. Several explicit clips purportedly of him were leaked before the polls. He is presently in custody of the Special Investigation Team, formed exclusively to probe the charges against him.

Suraj Revanna, Janata Dal (Secular) MLC, leaving a hospital after a medical test in Hassan on Sunday. ANI

Mr. Revanna was arrested for allegedly abducting a sexual abuse victim to prevent her from testifying against Mr. Prajwal, and is out on bail.

The former Minister's wife Bhavani Revanna recently secured anticipatory bail in the same case from the High Court of Karnataka.

The only person who had maintained a safe distance from Mr. Prajwal's cases, his elder brother Dr. Suraj, has now been arrested for allegedly sexually abusing a man.

Dr. Suraj began his political career by campaigning for his father during the Assembly elections in 2013, when he was a medical student.

Being the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and the son of a former Minister, he showed an interest in joining active politics after completing his postgraduation in general surgery in 2015.

Dr. Suraj focused on strengthening the party organisation in Channarayapatna taluk under the guidance of his parents. While his younger brother contested and won the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, Dr. Suraj waited for another two years to become a MLC in 2021.

However, by then, he was a popular face in the villages of Holenarasipur and Channarayapatna.

He was actively involved in campaigning during the 2018 Assembly elections and the Lok Sabha polls in 2019. During these campaigns, he and his associates attracted police complaints following arguments and clashes with workers of other parties.

His affidavit for the MLC polls in 2021 showed that his name was dropped by the Hassan district police in two cases, even as they filed a B report in another case, which many say is an indication of the family's political clout.

Dr. Suraj got married in 2018. However, he did not mention about his marriage in his election affidavit in 2021, suggesting that it did not last long. Later, a petition was filed in the High Court alleging that he suppressed the fact of his marriage in his affidavit.

His candidature for the Legislative Council in 2021 caused rifts in the party as many senior leaders, including MLAs, opposed it. However, he won and represented Hassan in the Legislative Council.

Unlike his father, Dr. Suraj was rarely seen holding meetings with officers in Hassan on development issues.

From Page One

Suraj Revanna arrested in sex abuse case

It may be noted that his younger brother and former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna is facing charges of rape in three cases and is presently in the custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed to probe his alleged sex crimes. Similarly, both his parents are on bail in connection with allegations of abducting a victim of sexual abuse by Mr. Prajwal.

A youth from Arkalgud taluk in Hassan district, who identified himself as a JD(S) worker, had filed a complaint on Saturday at Holenarsipur Rural Police Station alleging that Dr. Suraj had sexually abused him at his farmhouse at Gannikada in Holenarsipur taluk on June 16. Following the complaint, the police brought the MLC to the Cyber Economic and Narcotics Crime (CEN) police station in Hassan for interrogation that went on for hours and later arrested him late on Saturday night.

The Holenarsipur Rural police registered the case against Dr. Suraj and his associate Shivakumar H.L., under Sections 377 (unnatural offences), 342 (wrongful confinement), and 506 (criminal intimidation). Dr. Suraj's father, Mr. H.D. Revanna, MLA, has termed the allegations against his son a "conspiracy" and said he had faith in God and the judiciary. Dr. Suraj's uncle and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, however, chose to maintain a distance and refrained from commenting on the case.

The youth, who filed the complaint, chose not to undergo a medical examination in Hassan. He maintained that he had no faith in the hospital staff in Hassan. He was subjected to medical examination at the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospitals in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (June 24, Monday), the following articles are available:

- What are the duties of a Speaker? **bit.ly/speakerduties**
- Nuclear study provides major update on plutonium isotope fission **bit.ly/plutoniumisotopefission**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 24/2024
Dated: 14.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.
Description in brief: Brake control system including driver's vigilance control device as per CLW Spec. no. CLW/MS/3/001 Alt. 17. Note - Brake control system to be supplied in set-1 & set-2. Make-Faiveley Transport Rail Technologies India Private Limited.
Tender No.: L8245859 Qty: 01 Set
Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 10:30 hrs. of 08.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/173/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 25/2024
Dated: 14.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.
Description in brief: 4 Core x 240 sq mm 1100 V grade, stranded aluminium conductor galvanised steel strip Armoured, XLPE cable.
Tender No.: L8245895 Qty: 4200 Mtrs.
Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 10:30 hrs. of 08.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/174/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/C.565/STBA/ Bengaluru Divn./2024 Dated: 18.06.2024
Corrigendum
The Engagement of STBA at Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam station invited vide notification No. B/C.565/STBA/06/2024 Dated: 13.06.2024 will be for a period of only one year or up to termination of contract earlier by either party. Further for Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam station there shall be no extension of the engagement period, as per extent policy. There is no change in other terms and conditions.
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru
PUB/180/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-06 -2024-25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Provision of E-vehicle charging facility at Rail Soudha and Workshop locations over Hubballi division.	Rs. 27,84,194.00
2	Provision of 2 Nos x 5 KVA ground based Off Grid solar plants with battery backup at Caranzol & Kalaburagi Railway stations over Hubballi division	Rs. 12,48,430.00
3	Repairs/Maintenance to High- mast lights at various stations over Hubballi division.	Rs. 26,05,484.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 16.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer G / Hubballi
PUB/176/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SE02-2024-25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Sub Work I: Mysuru Workshop: Electrical arrangements to Upgradation of storage, material handling facilities and IT related infrastructure inside shop floor. **Sub Work II:** Setting up of Design and Mechatronics lab with improved facilities at CWS-MYSS. **Sub Work III:** Mysuru Workshop: Electrical arrangements to Supply, Installation, and commissioning of 15 KLD capacity sewage treatment plant.	Rs. 10,66,807/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 17.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer Mysuru Workshop
PUB/177/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: RelIlmp_RTU_ LCgate_Quad Dated: 18.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Item of Work	Appx. Value
South Western Railway - KSR Bengaluru Division - Reliability improvement for RTU networking at LC gates and section quad cable over KSR Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 53,73,743.92/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 10.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Bengaluru
PUB/182/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. Malini Bhat K D/o Late. Manjunath Bhat. K,** residing at No.208, Sri Ram Road, Thyagaraj Nagar, Bangalore-560 028 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule and she unable to trace the original Allotment Letter issued by the BDA, pertaining to the Schedule Property. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days.**
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **No.1521,** formed by the Bangalore Development Authority in Kumaraswamy Layout I stage, Bangalore-560 078, present Corporation No.1521, PID No.55-294-1521, **19th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout I Stage, Bangalore-560078,** Corporation Ward No.55, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Ward No.181, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 1000 square feet, together residential building constructed thereon and bounded on the;
East by : Site No.1520; West by : Site No.1522; North by : Site No.1483; South by : Road;
KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mrs.TALARI NAVYASREE W/o Mr. Bata Sivappa, and Mr.BATA SIVAPPA, S/o Sri. Bata Sreeramappa,** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. JAGADEESIL.R,** aged about 54 years, S/o Late Sri Ramachandrappa.T Grand son of Late. Sri. Hamenappa any person/s, Bank, Financial Institutions etc objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
PROPERTY SCHEDULE:
All that piece and parcel of the **Flat bearing No. A-312,** in the THIRD Floor. of the Apartment building known as **-NAVA GOKULAM** having a super built up area of 1718 Sq.ft. containing Three bed rooms, along with one car parking space, together with 722 Sq.ft undivided share of the Land bearing Converted New Survey No.95/4, Old Survey No.95, now assigned new **BBMP Katha No.110/95/4/110.** (Conversion from Agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion Application No. 264225, dated.28.09.2021, issued by Deputy Commissioner. Bangalore Urban District. Bangalore) situated at **HORAMAVU AGARA VILLAGE, K.R.Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk,** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 080-48658774 E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, SMT.G.R. NAGALAKSHMI, Aged about 51 years, W/o. Sri. Manjunatha Reddy B.S., Residing at No. 59/3, Shamanna Reddy Layout, Viratnagar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore -560068, Aadhaar No. 214801643307 and **PAN : AUJPN1515E and SRI.ANIL KUMAR B.J.,** Aged about 50 years, S/o. Sri. Jayarama Reddy B.A., Residing at No. 265-57/5, Sri.V.V.Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068, Aadhaar No. 433961107435 and **PAN: AGLPA7747D** are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.
It has been brought to the notice of the general public that our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above owner. All persons having any claims against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A. transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing **Sy.No.170/5, measuring to an extent of 0-06.08 Guntas,** (duly converted for non-agricultural to residential purpose vide Conversion Order bearing No. ALN(A) (SH)SR/47/2013-14 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District) Situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the :-**East by :** Remaining portion of the same Land bearing Sy.No.170/5 New No.170/9; **West by :** Property bearing Sy.No.168 and 169/1; **North by :** Land bearing Sy.No.170/2 and Road; **South by :** Land bearing Sy.No.170/4.
Dated this 24-06-2024
M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102,
Phone: 080-65555914,
Mobile: 9945688974; 6362102374

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client **Mr. YUGANDHAR PURINI** resident of No.1-109, Gopal Nagar, 3rd Line, Store Bazaar, Ongole, Prakasam Dist., AP, intends to purchase schedule property from Sri. AYAZ ULLA .F & MRS. SHAHNAZ both are residing at No. 246 & 249/1, 1st C Cross, NRI Layout, 2nd Phase, Kalkere Main Road, Kalkere, Bangalore-43. Any person, claiming to have any charge, lien, interest minor, claims, right/s whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 2/07/2024 failing which my clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property no claims shall be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Northern portion of the House built on site No's.248&249, HL Katha No.361/1, formed in survey No.362, 363, 364 and 365, situated at Kalkere Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk in the Layout known as "NRI LAYOUT" building consisting of 10 sqaure RCC roofed building hereon, measuring East to West : 47 feet and North to South : 30 feet and bounded on :-
East by : 20 feet Road (exclusive road fro purchasers), **West by :** Site No. 250, **North by :** Remaining portion of the same property, **South by :** Remaining portion of the same property.
From : **VEMURI.SRINIVAS** Advocate
MA, LLB, KAR No. 514/99
Sri. Venkateswara Rao Nilaya,
Bhagawanthi Associates, No.613,
Kaveri Layout, Marathalli, Bangalore-37.
Mob. : 9243110037
Mail : vsradvocate37@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE No: S/XIII/02/2024-25
Following is the Schedule of E-Auction to be held in the month of July, August & September-2024 for Sale of on-line scrap, Serviceable Locomotive and Depot scrap under the jurisdictions of General Stores Depot/Hubballi and Mechanical & General Stores Depot /Ashokapuram Depots and Hubballi, Mysuru and Bengaluru Divisions of South Western Railway.

Types of Auction	Venue	July-2024		August-2024		September-2024	
E-Auction (From 09.00 Hrs)	General Stores Depot / Hubballi	4th	15th	5th	20th	4th	18th
	Mechanical & General Stores Depot / Ashokpuram (Mysuru)	10th	25th	6th	21st	5th	19th
	Hubballi Division	18th	29th	19th	29th	10th	24th
	Bengaluru Division	16th	26th	14th	28th	11th	25th
	Mysuru Division	8th	22nd	7th	22nd	9th	23rd

Sale Serviceable locomotives: Following Five (05) numbers of condemned, Surplus, Under aged and Serviceable Locomotives are in e-Auction catalogue of Senior Divisional Materials Manager/KSR Bengaluru viz, WDG3A-14796, WDG3A-13054, WDG3A-13031, WDG3A-14082 and WDG3A-14084.
You all are requested to actively participate in the above scheduled e-Auction. For details please contact to Deputy Chief Materials Manager/General Stores Depot/Hubballi (0836-2363466/9731668760), Deputy Chief Materials Manager/ Mechanical General Stores Depot/Ashokapuram (0821-2480171/ 9731665756), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Division/Bengaluru (080-22873081 / 9731666750), Senior Divisional Materials Manager/Division/Mysuru (0821-2420817/ 6731667750), Senior Divisional Materials Manager/Hubballi (0836-2363497/9731668750)
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in/E-auction
PUB/179/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Deputy Chief Materials Manager / CN / Hubballi**
South Western Railway-SWR southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

TAMILNADU FOREST PLANTATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Thiru. S. Nesamani, B.Sc.,
Regional Manager
Phone Number : 97508 44654
Subramaniapuram 5th Street South, Karaikudi. Sivagangai (District)
PIN Code: 630 002.
eMail : rmkaraikudi@gmail.com

Notice of e-tender cum e-auction for sale of Eucalyptus standing trees raised in the plantations in Pudukkottai, Karaikudi and Tirukoilur Regions of TAFCORN

Sale of Eucalyptus standing trees for pulpwood in the plantations raised in the Ranges in Pudukottai, Karaikudi and Tirukoilur Regions of Tamilnadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited, for the year 2024-25 will be conducted by way of e-tender cum e-auction through MSTC Portal.Those who are interested may register as contractor in the MSTC website at free of cost and participate in the e-tender cum e-auction.The terms of e-tender cum e-auction and Range wise / Region-wise details of plantations to be brought for Sale are available in the following websites: https://www.mstcecommerce.com and https://www.mstcindia.co.in . The contractors can update themselves of the details of e-tender cum e-auction from the above websites from time to time.The details relating to e-tender cum e-auction will also be available in the Notice Board of the respective Regional Offices. Arrangements have been made for online registration in the respective Regional Offices and those who are desirous can make use of the same.

Sl No	Name of the Regions/ Ranges	Total No.of Eucalyptus Plantations	Total Area in ha	Total Anticipated yield in M.t	Date / day of time e- tender cum e-auction	Time
1	Pudukkottai / Pudukkottai, panayappatty, Gandharvakottai	29	654.43	17473.370	10.07.2024 (Wednesday)	10.00 am to 5.00 pm
2	Karaikudi / Karaikudi, Kallal	18	260.18	6950.000		
3	Tirukoilur/ Sankarapuram, Pagandai	21	362.36	9200.000		

Note: The date, time and details of plantation for the subsequent e-tender cum e-auction will be available in the MSTC website and will also be made available in the Notice Boards of the respective Regional Offices.
Regional Manager,
DIPR / 2042 / TENDER / 2024 **(TAFCORN), Karaikudi.**

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
Office of the Mission Director, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall,
Bengaluru-560002. E-mail: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

No. KSRLPS/Proc/Gen/03/2023-PRCT-KSRLPS **Date: 21.06.2024**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM
Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Bangalore, Belagavi and Kalaburagi Divisions in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS.

Sanjeevini-KSRLPS is inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Bangalore, Belagavi and Kalaburagi Divisions in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS. The following RFP is published through "e-Procurement Portal" on 21.06.2024. Kindly refer the tender document for scope of work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender	Tender Ref. No. through e-proc	Procuring Entity
1	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Bangalore Division in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS	KSRLPS/2023-24/ SE0019/CALL-3	Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
2	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Belagavi Division in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS	KSRLPS/2023-24/ SE0022/CALL-2	Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
3	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Kalaburagi Division in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS	KSRLPS/2023-24/ SE0021/CALL-2	Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The last date for receipt of RFP is 05 .07.2024 before 5:30 pm.

Sd/-
Additonal Mission Director
Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/492/AKAR/2024-25

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office Of The, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani - 591304, Tq : Athani. Dist : Belgaum
Phone : 08289-251034, E-mail : knnlhbc.2008@rediffmail.com

No. : K.N.N.L./H.B.C./P.B/TND/2024-25/646 **Date : 12-06-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp-portal only)

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two Cover System for below mentioned Work on from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.
On behalf of the **Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani,** invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II and Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.
The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.
The blank tender documents can be obtained through **Website : www.kpp-portal karnataka.gov.in** and can be submitted through electronic tender only.
The approximate estimated cost of work is 1) Rs. 491.14 Lakhs, 2) Rs 396.03 Lakhs, 3) Rs. 456.34 Lakhs, 4) Rs. 490.62 Lakhs.
1) The contractor can request for e-tendering documents : From 24-06-2024 @ 10.30 a.m. to 01-07-2024 upto 4.00 p.m. 2) Last Date & Time for tender queries : 29.06.2024 upto 4.00 p.m. 3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held in the Office of the EE HBC Division Athani : 28-06-2024 upto 11.00 a.m. 4) Submission of completed e-tendering document : From 24-06-2024 @ 10.30 a.m. to 01-07-2024 upto 4.00 p.m. 5) Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani : 03-07-2024 @ 11.00 a.m. 6) Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani : 06-07-2024 @ 11.00 a.m. or After approval of Technical Bid, 7) Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athai : 04-07-2024 @ 11.00 a.m.
Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on **Telephone : 08289-251034 & H.P company helpline : 080-2248 5867.**
Sd/- Praveen B. Hunashikatti,
Executive Engineer,
KNNL HBC Division, Athani
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2. Puja Choudhary, Guwahati
3. Sulakshna Choudhury, Pune

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

Is the European Union's 'chat control' law undermining online privacy?

The EU's proposal to thwart child sexual abuse online could potentially create a backdoor for authoritarian governments to snoop on citizens. Some tech companies, along with trade associations, and privacy experts have all vehemently opposed the regulation

Poulomi Chatterjee

The story so far:

The European Union's proposed 'chat control' law has become a bone of contention between members of the bloc. First proposed by the European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson in May 2022 as part of the bloc's push to combat child sexual abuse online, the framework of the bill has now come under fire, earning itself a derisive term "Chat Control". France, Germany and Poland have particularly refused to accept a clause that allows for mass scanning of private messages by breaking end-to-end encryption. Some tech companies, along with trade associations, and privacy experts have all vehemently opposed the regulation. On the other hand, the Interior Ministers of Spain and Ireland have supported the proposal. Separately, a network of organisations and individuals, advocating for children's rights in Europe, have lashed out at EU leaders for failing to tackle child sexual abuse online.

What are the concerns of those against the proposal?

Scanning end-to-end encrypted messages has remained a controversial issue. That's because there is no way to do this without opening risky backdoors that can be accessed by third parties who can exploit the vulnerability, in turn ending the promise of end-to-end encryption.

Tech firms that have tread the encryption bypassing path have have often been made to retreat. In 2021, Apple announced NeuralHash, a feature that could automatically scan iCloud photo libraries of individual devices for Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). Employees and activist groups expressed concerns over the loss of privacy. A year later, Apple said it had abandoned the initiative. Another looming issue the iPhone maker recognised in the process was how authoritarian governments could potentially misuse the feature by using it as a tool to target individuals who oppose the regime.

Erik Neuenschwander, Director of user privacy and child safety at Apple, admitted this in a note saying, "It would [...] inject the potential for a slippery slope of unintended consequences. Scanning for one type of content, for instance, opens the door for bulk surveillance and could create a desire to search other encrypted messaging systems across content types."

When bringing in a similar clause through the U.K.'s Online Safety Bill, lawmakers attempted to make way for client-side scanning of private and encrypted messages. The proposal was postponed after receiving pushback from encrypted messaging app owners like WhatsApp and Signal. The duo threatened to leave the U.K. if such a law was passed. In its final stages, in September, 2023, the House of Lords considered the potential security threat that the clause would bring saying it would not implement scanning until it was "technically feasible."

What is the status of the EU's chat control law?

On June 30, a new draft of the proposal is set to be be reviewed. Legislators have left the idea of scanning text messages and audio, and are instead targetting shared photos, videos and URLs with an adjustment to appease the naysayers.

Another tweak in the making could be people's consent in sharing material being scanned before being encrypted. But this compromise has been largely called out as a farcical one. A report by Euractiv which has been confirmed by internal documents shows that if a user refuses the scanning, they will simply be blocked from sending or receiving images, videos and links hardly leaving them with a choice. Despite these measures, EU's enforcement of such regulations have seen exemptions to the rule. In November 2023, the European Commission reportedly published a proposal to amend the regulation on a temporary derogation of the E-Privacy Directive against CSAM. Under the regulation, specific online communications service providers were allowed to sift through or scan messages to detect, report and remove online CSAM and content that solicits children. The regulation is set to expire in early August . The initial plan on the table was to simply extend this regulation for another three years. But, according to media reports, plans for further extensions were stalled in February this year.

Meredith Whittaker, President of Signal app called the measures to assuage concerns as "cosmetic", and has signed a joint statement along with a group of over 60 other organisations like Mozilla, Proton, Surfshark and Tuta, voicing out her concerns. Ms. Whittaker has echoed her earlier warning saying Signal will leave the U.K. rather than undermine end-to-end encryption.

A blog, co-authored by Riana Pfefferkorn, a research scholar at the Stanford Internet Observatory and Callum Voge, director of government affairs and advocacy at the Internet Society, notes, "If government surveillance is a concern in an established democratic entity like the EU, what hope is there for beleaguered democracies like Turkey, India and Brazil, much less autocracies?"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 137th edition of the Wimbledon Tennis Championship starts on July 1. Here is a quiz to test your knowledge on its history

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
Who are the singles winners who won both in the amateur and open eras?

QUESTION 2
Who is the only player to have won all three types of titles —singles, doubles and mixed doubles, four or more times in the open era?

QUESTION 3
Which two players figured in the longest match to be held in Wimbledon history which went on for 11 hours, and five minutes spread over three days?

QUESTION 4
Who are the two players in the open era to win the Gentlemen singles without losing a single set in the entire tournament?

QUESTION 5
Name the two pairs of players in the open era to have won six doubles titles together (most for any pair) at the Wimbledon doubles Championships?

QUESTION 6
Who is the only male player to have won four mixed doubles titles in the open era, each with a different partner?

QUESTION 7
Who became the first brother–sister combination to win a Grand slam doubles title together at Wimbledon in 1980?

Visual question:
Who receives the round plate and what is its name? GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the June 21 edition of the daily quiz: 1. A book which is a part of a popular best-selling series was released on this date in 2003. **Ans:** ***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix***
2. This Prime Minister, who was sworn in on June 21, 1991, was the first Congress PM outside the Gandhi-Nehru family. **Ans: P.V. Narasimha Rao**
3. The day the UN adopted June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. **Ans: December 11, 2014**
4. The Summer Solstice marks the event when the Sun is at its southernmost position to Earth's equator. Is the statement true. **Ans: It is false. It will be at the northernmost position**
5. This American whistleblower became a naturalised Russian citizen in 2022. **Ans: Edward Snowden**
Visual: The Ferris wheel debuted at this place. **Ans: World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Sadhan Kumar Panda| Kuldeep Soni| Abhijeet Prakash| Abhinav Raj

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Are soft drinks bad for your health?

Don't go with the team, you always end up being the whipping boy when they make mistakes

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the term 'whipping boy'? (K.C. Roshni)
If 'good boy' means 'a boy who is good' and 'city boy' means a 'boy who is used to city life', logic suggests that a 'whipping boy' should be someone who likes to whip – someone who enjoys whipping or beating others. This, however, is not the case; he is someone who gets whipped. In everyday contexts, the expression is mostly used to refer to someone who gets blamed for everything that goes wrong in an organisation or a household. Someone else may have made the blunder, but it is the poor individual who gets blamed; he is punished or reprimanded for no fault of his. The word can be used with people and things. The expression 'whipping boy' is not heard very often; it has been replaced by 'scapegoat' and 'fall guy'.

As usual, it was the poor coach who became the whipping boy for the team's terrible performance in the tournament.

In the past, a boy from a poor family was usually chosen to be with a prince; this companion participated in all the daily activities of the prince. Like the prince, he lived a life of luxury – he dined on good food, wore good clothes, and perhaps what is more important, he studied along with the prince. He was given a free education. The problem was whenever the prince committed a mistake, it was the poor boy, and not the prince, who was punished. He was the one who received a beating from the master! Hence the term 'whipping boy'.

How is the word 'accost' pronounced? (K. Madhusudhan, Gulbarga)
The word consists of two syllables; the first sounds like the 'a' in 'china', while the second is pronounced like the word 'cost'. This word of Latin origin is pronounced 'a-COST' with the stress on the second syllable. It comes from the Latin 'accostare' meaning 'come up to the side'; so, when you 'accost' someone, you approach an individual. Nowadays, the word is mostly used to suggest walking up to a stranger in an aggressive manner and speaking to him rather rudely. Do not use the word to mean 'to greet someone'. You usually accost someone you are not familiar with.

On her way to court, Revathi was accosted by three gang members.

Is it okay to say 'cool drink'? (C. Vaidehi, Trichy)
Yes, within India, it is perfectly acceptable. When we go to someone's house, we are often asked if we would like a 'cool drink'. What the host wishes to know is whether we would like to have a cola of any kind – Pepsi, Fanta, Coke, etc. Native speakers of English, on the other hand, do not refer to this kind of drink as 'cool drink'. The terms that they commonly use are 'soft drink', 'soda', 'soda pop', etc.

Would you be interested in a soda pop?
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Supersede:
take the place or move into the position of

Synonyms: replace, supervene, supplant

Usage: *This edition supersedes the previous one.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/supersedepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌsuːpəˈsiːd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

EDUCATIONPLUS

Bytes and rights

Understanding digital rights is imperative in the context of digital classrooms, where students interact with diverse educational technologies

Saurabh Sinha
Sajai Singh

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The foundation of digital classrooms rests upon intricate systems of data collection, spanning from learning management systems and educational apps to virtual classrooms and online assessments. Within this ecosystem, interactions generate a plethora of data points, encompassing student demographics, academic performance metrics, browsing history, and engagement patterns. This collection of student data is fundamental to tailor educational experiences and enhance learning outcomes.

Educational technology platforms leverage data analytics and machine learning algorithms to personalise instruction, identify areas of improvement, and provide targeted support for student progress. However, the indiscriminate gathering of sensitive information without informed consent or transparent disclosure raises significant concerns regarding individual privacy rights and autonomy. The commercialisation of student data poses risks related to ownership, security breaches, and potential exploitation by external entities. To address these issues, various legal frameworks and regulatory mechanisms including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and Information Technology Act, 2000 have been implemented to safeguard student data privacy.

In the context of digital classrooms, where students interact with diverse educational technologies, understanding digital rights becomes imperative. The proliferation of digital communication channels exposes students to a range of cyber threats, such as identity theft, fraud, and online harassment. Sharing personal information online without due diligence can lead to severe consequences, compromising students' privacy and security. It is essential for students to exercise caution and discretion when sharing sensitive information online and remain vigilant against potential cyber threats.

The fine print

Examining privacy policies acts as a frontline defence in defining the boundaries of student data collection, storage, and utilisation. Through meticulous review, students assert their authority in safeguarding personal information, thereby upholding their inherent rights to autonomy and dignity. Understanding the utilisation of their data by digital platforms and educational tools empowers students to make informed choices about their engagement levels. Therefore, it is important for students to acquaint themselves with the privacy policies and terms of service governing digital platforms and educational tools used in the classroom to make discerning decisions regarding online activities.

Scrutinising terms of service enables students to grasp the scope and purpose of data collection, storage, and utilisation and facilitates assessment of implications for privacy and digital security. Delving into privacy policies embedded within terms of service elucidates students' entitlements and safeguards concerning personal information handling. Attention to provisions regarding data access, consent mechanisms, and data-sharing practices empowers students to effectively assert their privacy rights. Moreover, terms of service delineate users' responsibilities and obligations, fostering adherence to ethical standards and nurturing a safe digital environment.

Copyright laws

In the digital age, accessing and utilising educational resources often involves navigating complex copyright laws and regulations. Students must adhere to these laws while using digital resources for educational purposes, ensuring proper attribution and compliance with licensing agreements. When in doubt about the legality of using copyrighted materials, students must:

- Seek explicit permission from copyright holder. Contact the rights owner or use materials that are licensed under open access or Creative Commons licenses, which often grant permission for educational use with proper attribution
- Practise proper attribution by citing sources accurately in academic assignments and projects
- Adhere to recognised citation styles, and provide detailed references for all borrowed materials, including text, images, videos, and other multimedia content
- Take advantage of licensed resources provided by educational institutions, libraries, and digital repositories
- Access e-books, journals, databases, and multimedia resources that are legally acquired and compliant with copyright laws
- Use these resources responsibly to support academic research and learning objectives.

Understanding digital rights empowers students to navigate the digital world responsibly. They have rights such as knowing how their data is used, reviewing and correcting it, deleting unnecessary data, and objecting to data processing.

By understanding their privacy and data protection rights, students can advocate for themselves and ensure ethical treatment of their personal information. This is essential to promote digital literacy, protect privacy, and foster responsible digital citizenship in today's technology-driven education landscape.

Sajai Singh is Partner and Saurabh Sinha is Senior Associate at JSA Advocates and Solicitors.

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What's your best fit?

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I want to do PG in Animation and work for Disney. I am not eligible for IIT. I am also not sure about taking a year off to prepare for entrance exams. Where else can I pursue this? Shruthi

Dear Shruthi,

Animation and working for Disney or any other leading animation studio requires dedication, hard work, continuous learning, and creative thinking. Develop your skills and portfolio, network professionally, gain practical experience, and seize opportunities. Some Indian colleges you can consider are National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad; Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID), Pune; Whistling Woods International, Mumbai; Arena Animation, Mumbai; Maya Academy of Advanced Cinematics (MAAC), Frameboxx Animation and Visual Effects, and Zee Institute of Creative Art (ZICA). Abroad, look at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), School of Visual Arts (SVA), and Ringling College of Art and Design, in the U.S.; Sheridan College and Vancouver Film School (VFS), Canada; Gobelins, l'école de l'image, France; and Bournemouth University, the U.K. Research and explore the colleges and their programmes, curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, industry connections, and placement opportunities before you make a decision.

I am final-year student of History. I am interested in Art History. Which colleges in India or abroad will be good for this course? Varsha

Dear Varsha,

Colleges in India and abroad that offer UG and PG programmes in Art History are National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi; Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara; University of Mumbai, Mumbai; Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan; Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh; and Delhi University (DU), New Delhi; The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, University of Oxford, University College London (UCL), and University of Cambridge, the U.K.; Sorbonne University, Paris, France; Harvard University, and Yale University, the U.S. Explore, study, and interpret art, culture, and society to achieve success as an art historian, researcher, scholar, curator, educator, or professional in the field of art, culture, and academia.

I completed my B.Tech. in 2019 and am working in a BPO. Despite my limited resources, I would like to be an entrepreneur. How can I transition into business? Robin

Dear Robin,

It is integral to have a sharp business mindset and a resilient approach to launch, and grow a successful and sustainable business. You will need to overcome challenges, seize opportunities. Identify your passion and reflect on your interests, skills, and experiences to identify potential business ideas. Assess the market needs, trends, and opportunities to ensure its viability, demand, and potential for growth and success. Define your business model and have a complete business plan, from value proposition, target audience, competitive advantage, revenue model, and growth strategy. Develop a detailed financial budget with projections, expenses, cash flow, and funding requirements, and explore potential sources of funding, investment, and financial support available. Enroll in entrepreneurship courses and training programmes offered by universities, incubators, and accelerators to gain knowledge. Network with experienced entrepreneurs, and industry experts to learn and grow. Create an online presence and use social media platforms, digital marketing strategies, content marketing, and online advertising to build awareness, visibility, and engagement for your brand and reach the target audience. Finally, embrace challenges, take calculated risks, and learn from failures to achieve success.

I am a B.Com. (Hons) graduate in a Group B job with the Government of India. My resume has a four-year gap due to UPSC CSE attempts. I plan to do an MBA. Is this a wise idea? Amal

Dear Amal,

Why not? You need to decide if you want to do this while you continue to work or to quit and enrol in a full-time course. This requires careful consideration, preparation and planning. An MBA can offer valuable skills, knowledge, and opportunities to advance your career but, first, assess your core interests, goals, and aspirations. Evaluate your options and consider alternatives available.

Do you want to change roles or industries? Do you wish to move to the private sector? Why are you dissatisfied? Do you want a career change or to advance in your current field? Speak to a professional career counsellor and assess your current skills, strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. Then see if an MBA is the solution.

Also, remember the financial investment and ROI of obtaining an MBA degree. You will also need to consider the time you need to commit. Research the programmes, specialisations, and opportunities and evaluate the curriculum, faculty, reputation, accreditation, rankings, alumni network, placement record, and career services before you decide the institution.

Also seek guidance and advice, from mentors and advisors at your current job and from some MBA alumni, professionals, and experts.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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North Education Review

Empowering the Legal Dream with Drishti Judiciary

As the final school bell rings, many students face excitement and confusion about their future. Inspired by legal dramas like 'Suits,' the idea of becoming a lawyer often emerges, but the path forward can seem daunting. The historic significance of law, rooted in the ancient concept of 'Dharma,' underscores its importance. Law remains a cornerstone of justice, shaping societies and individuals alike.

Legal careers in India are diverse, ranging from Litigation Advocate to Corporate Lawyer, Criminal Lawyer and more. Each path offers unique challenges and rewards, making the profession prestigious and respected.

For students aiming to pursue law, clearing the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is essential. CLAT is a national-level exam for admission to law programs at National Law Universities (NLUs) and other institutions. The exam covers subjects like English, General Knowledge, Mathematics, Legal Aptitude and Logical Reasoning.

Many students struggle with affordability and quality when preparing for CLAT. Drishti Judiciary emerges as a solution, offering a comprehensive and affordable CLAT course.

Known for its success in competitive exams, Drishti Judiciary provides expert guidance and personalized support. Led by Dr. Vikas Divyakirti, the faculty ensures an enriching academic journey.

The course includes a meticulously crafted curriculum, regular tests and daily worksheets. Classes are available offline in Mukherjee Nagar & Karol Bagh and online via the Drishti Learning App.

The program spans 6 to 7 months, with over 150 classes held six days a week. Continuous evaluation through class tests, supplemented by updated notes and materials, ensures students are well-prepared.

Additionally, Drishti Judiciary offers a Judiciary Foundation Batch, designed to help students prepare for the Judicial Services Examination. This batch focuses on nurturing future judges by providing an in-depth understanding of legal principles and practical skills.

Drishti Judiciary's commitment to accessibility, affordability and excellence makes it the ideal choice for aspiring law students. In the pursuit of justice, Drishti Judiciary illuminates the path to success, empowering the next generation of legal luminaries.

Integral University: A Premier Institution in Higher Education, Lucknow, India

Integral University, located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, is a leading university recognized for its academic excellence and holistic development. Approved by the UGC, National Medical Commission, and Pharmacy Council of India, the university is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities and is recognized as a Scientific & Industrial Research Organization by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Integral University was founded by Prof. Syed Waseem Akhtar, whose visionary leadership has been instrumental in shaping the institution's growth and development. His dedication to making higher education accessible and of high quality has been the driving force behind the university's success.

Accredited with an A+ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the university has received numerous awards in the higher education sector. Notably, its Faculty of Architecture, Law, and Engineering are highly ranked by the IIRF 2023. The Faculty of Pharmacy has been consistently ranked among the top 100 in NIRF over the years.

Prof. S.W. Akhtar Founder & Chancellor, Integral University

The university's 200-acre campus offers world-class infrastructure, including modern classrooms, advanced laboratories with some already accredited by NABL, sports facilities, a gymnasium, a library with over one lakh books and e-journals, an auditorium, and multiple seminar halls. It provides safe and comfortable hostel accommodations for both girls and boys.

Integral University is a diverse and inclusive community with over 15,000 students, including more than 300 international students from 18 countries. The university offers over 225 academic programs across various disciplines.

Pro-Chancellor Syed Nadeem Akhtar states, "Integral University is committed to not only imparting knowledge but also fostering innovation and community service. We aim to produce graduates who are equipped to meet global challenges and make meaningful contributions to society."

A notable feature of the university is the Integral Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, which includes an 820-bedded hospital. The hospital is renowned for its state-of-the-art facilities and medical research, significantly contributing to the local community's healthcare needs. Additionally, the Integral Institute of Allied Health Sciences & Research is rated 'A' by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for its quality standards. The Centre for Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) under the Integral Startups Foundation supports budding entrepreneurs, startups, and innovators. CIED is recognized as an Incubation Centre by StartInUP, Department of IT & Electronics, Govt. of U.P.

Integral University is committed to quality education, research, and innovation, offering numerous programs that prepare students for successful careers. The university's placement cell collaborates with top multinational corporations, providing excellent career opportunities. Integral University boasts an extensive network of over 41,000 alumni making significant contributions globally.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Javed Musarrat adds, "Our focus on research-driven education and holistic development ensures that our students are prepared to excel in their careers and become responsible global citizens. Integral University remains dedicated to providing an environment that nurtures talent and encourages lifelong learning."

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KIOCL mining issue: HDK accuses State of taking 'unilateral decision'

The State govt. has stopped execution of the mining lease of the company in Sandur taluk of Ballari district; Forest Minister, however, reiterates that the firm should rectify past mistakes before getting permission to mine again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The controversy over stopping the execution of the mining lease in favour of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) in Sandur taluk of Ballari district assumed political colour on Sunday with Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy accusing the State government of taking a "unilateral decision" just because he had signed the file concerned. However, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre reiterated that the KIOCL should rectify the past mistakes before getting permission to mine again.

"Yesterday, the State government decided to stop the KIOCL project because I signed that file. To continue with its operation, the KIOCL, which registered a loss of ₹124 crore last year, needs ₹1,738 crore now and it intends to raise this as a loan from two banks. The Finance Ministry's approval is needed for the purpose and I have just moved the file. I have not taken any decision on mining," the Union Minister told presspersons in Channapatna on Sunday. He said: "Who gave the land for the project? It was Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's government in 2016 that allotted land. The land has been registered already and the Centre too has granted permission (for the project)."

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy during his visit to the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. office in Bengaluru recently.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "Yesterday, the Forest Minister issued a statement to stop the execution of the mining lease. It pertains to the earlier mining activity of the KIOCL in the Kudremukh area when some forest land was inundated due to the rising of the height of the Lakhya dam by one foot. He has also said that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) directions have not been complied with."

The Union Minister, however, said: "What happens to employment in the region? The government does it in anger against me and portrays that I have given permission. Did any of the Ministers approach me for discussion on the issue? You have taken a unilateral decision on the subject and what is your moral right to tell us to seek the Centre's help for the State? Is it my personal work? How will you explain this to the public? If the government behaves like this what will they expect from us in the upcoming parliamentary session?"

'State should cooperate'

His outburst on the KIOCL came when reporters sought his reaction if any big projects were being planned for the Old Mysore region. "I am working on how to bring projects to the entire State, and not restrict it to the Old Mysore region alone. Fresh lease of life has to be breathed into the VISL, which is now part of disinvestment. However, the State government should also cooperate."

Meanwhile, Mr. Khandre, who responded to allegations of kickbacks for stalling the project made by BJP leader C.T. Ravi, said the KIOCL had not followed court orders and had not complied with Central Empowered Committee directions. "Let them take permission after setting right past mistakes," he said in a statement, adding that the world knows that BJP leaders have links to illegal mining. "An illegal mining lord, who was expelled from the party in the past, has been given a red-carpet welcome now. World knows how many mining licences were issued during the BJP tenure."

Bypoll: 'We will field a unanimous candidate'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who vacated the Channapatna Assembly seat after he was elected from the Mandya parliamentary constituency, on Sunday said both JD(S) and BJP would have a "unanimous" candidate for the upcoming byelections in Channapatna.

"Appropriate candidate will be selected. Leaders of both parties will discuss and select a unanimous candidate. There is anyway time for the election." he said.

On Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar turning his attention to Channapatna ahead of the byelection, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "He is the *de facto* Chief Minister. Can we say don't go? Let us congratulate him as at least now he is focusing on Channapatna." Asked if he was doing it to redeem his pride in Vokkaliga politics, he said: "It is politics. Let him do it."

Suraj Revanna arrest: JD(S) to wait and watch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kumaraswamy distances himself from the arrest of his nephew

The Janata Dal (Secular) will adopt a "wait-and-watch policy" concerning developments around the arrest of its MLC Suraj Revanna, the grandson of the JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, on Sunday in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of a 27-year-old man at his farmhouse. Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel and JD (S) State president H.D Kumaraswamy distanced himself from the latest case involving the family of his brother and Holenarsipur MLA H.D. Revanna that is embroiled in alleged scandals in recent months.

Multiple sources in the party said no discussion had taken place so far, and that the development looks "well planned" which has taken everyone by surprise. "We are not sure how the latest development will damage the party. Lakhs of party workers have kept faith in the JD (S). We will wait for further developments in the case and decide on the kind of action that needs to be taken against Dr. Suraj," sources said.

A conspiracy: Revanna

Terming the arrest as a "conspiracy", Mr. Revanna, former Minister, told reporters in Bengaluru that he had faith in God and the judiciary. "This is a conspiracy. I am not going to be scared of this. Only time will decide. I will speak when the time is appropriate," he said.

However, reacting to the "conspiracy" allegation, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the arrest of Dr. Suraj was based on the complaint and not part of any conspiracy. "The police have followed law. There is no political agenda in this."

A postgraduate in general surgery, Dr. Suraj, became the third person from Mr. Revanna's family to be arrested in recent months after his younger brother and former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting multiple women, and Mr. Revanna on the charge of abduction. Mr. Revanna's wife Bhavani Revanna has secured anticipatory bail in connection with the case of the alleged abduction of one of the victims of sexual assault by Mr. Prajwal. Dr. Suraj has been an MLC since February 2022 after being elected from the Hassan Local Authorities constituency. Mr. Prajwal stands suspended from the party after allegations of sexual assault broke out in the middle of the Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, when reporters sought the reaction of Mr. Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru, he said, "That (issue) does not pertain to me. There is no necessity to react to such things. Why are you asking me? The law will take its own course of action." When persisted with the course of action against Dr. Suraj, he said: "How is it related to me? All these things can be discussed later."

In Mysuru, JD(S) Core Committee chairman G.T. Deve Gowda, who is expected to take over as the JD(S) legislature party leader ahead of the monsoon session of the State legislature, said the party would not interfere with the investigation. "Appropriate punishment should be given to those committing a crime. It may be anyone. All are equal before the law of the land and punishment should be equal." To a question if the party stands embarrassed with the arrest, he shot back: "Why should the party be embarrassed if someone in the party commits a mistake? Is the party responsible for what has been done? I will discuss the matter. I have not got any information on the arrest."

Kumaraswamy seeks report on ways to revive HMT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after holding a discussion with officials of HMT Ltd. in Bengaluru, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has said he has given a month's time to officials concerned to submit a report on the possible ways of reviving the company.

"I took details during the nearly three-and-a-half-hour meeting on Saturday and I gave them a month to file a report on how it can be revived. They do not have money to pay salaries. Neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor I are responsible for the situation. It was destroyed long ago," Mr. Kumaraswamy told reporters here on Sunday. Stating that the company was facing a huge loss, he added: "I cannot expect any cooperation from the State government given the way it is conducting itself. The then Maharaja had given 500 acres in Peenya Plantation of which 115 acres were sold sometime around 2000 to private entities," he added.

> They do not have money to pay salaries. Neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor I are responsible for the situation. It was destroyed long ago.
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY,** Union Minister

The Union Minister said he had not been made the Union Minister for divestment of PSUs.

"I will try to revive these companies as far as possible. I am still seeking reports of the PSUs," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Defending a bad case

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed his ministerial colleagues and legislators not to make comments on the alleged involvement of actor Darshan in the murder of Renukaswamy. But a day after the directive, Maddur Congress MLA Udaya K.M. described Darshan as "a good person" who is unlikely to have killed anyone. Mr. Udaya, who had roped in Darshan for his campaign in the 2023 Assembly elections, claimed that the actor was "not a bad guy". The MLA, who seems to have a soft corner for the actor, said Darshan and he had been friends for many years.

However, as better sense kicked in, the MLA was quick to say, "But I don't have information on what happened. An investigation is going on. The truth will come out. The investigation should make things clear," he said. On being asked whether the government was under pressure to bail out Darshan, Mr. Udaya denied it and said, "Law is the same for all. If there was any influence, Darshan would not have gone to jail. There's no question of protecting or fixing someone."

When Dy. CM failed in the balancing act

It has now become a norm for political leaders to attempt yoga poses on the International Day of Yoga, even if never again for the rest of the year. These

attempts often give rise to memes online and this year it was the turn of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar *(in picture)* to go viral. Participating in the Yogotsava organised by the government on the grand steps of the Vidhana Soudha, Mr. Shivakumar, who was accompanied by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, struggled to perform many asanas and was also captured in funny poses by several photographers present at the event. What stood out the most was Mr. Shivakumar's attempt to perform Vrikshasana (tree pose) which is a balancing pose where one is required to stand on one leg. While the pose requires the other leg to be folded and placed on one's thigh, Mr. Shivakumar lost his balance multiple times during his attempt. Many shared this clip on social media with one-liners and wisecracks.

To be fair, Mr. Shivakumar himself had admitted during the Yogotsava that he had never practised yoga before. "In school, I used to participate in athletics, and I have not really practised yoga anytime. But my family members practice it regularly," he had said with a sheepish grin.

Nagesh Prabhu
Jahnavi T.R.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOST DOCUMENTS

The General Public is hereby informed that Mr. Rajendra Kumar Khosla, residing at E-14, Epsilon Villas, Yemlur Main Road, Next to CGI, Bengaluru – 560 037, has lost /misplaced **Sale deed dated 22.01.1996,** registered as Document No. 372 of 1996, Book 1, Volume No. 1852, pages 131-134 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hosur, Tamil Nadu, and the same is not traceable till date in respect of the property as described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **Schedule Property.**

A Lost Article Report No. 1091478/2024 dated 10/06/2024 has been filed online with the Bengaluru City Police in this regard. Any person in possession of the above referred original document may kindly handover the same to the undersigned. Except Mr. Rajendra Kumar Khosla, no other person/s, entity, company, organization, has/have any share, right, title, interest and ownership over the Schedule Property.

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Item No.2 – S.No.210/1B dry ext.0.53.0 Hec. Assessed at Rs.1.63 in this, an extent of Ac.0.32 Acres.

Boundaries for the land sold in both S.Nos.:
East : Unit No.61
West : S.No.210/1A
North : 50 feet wide road
South : Unit No.53

The properties are situated at Sevaganapalli Panchayat and Hosur Panchayat Union Council limits.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 23.06.2024

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

B.Muralidhar Reddy (64), Retired Associate Editor, The Hindu, New Delhi passed away on 22-June-2024. Address: 187, Samachar Apartments, Mayur Vihar, Phase - I Extension, Delhi-110091.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXVI ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (C.C.H. NO. 20)

P & S C No.25039 /2024

BETWEEN:

1. Mr. MOHAMMED IMRAN KHAN, aged about 48 years, S/o. late Azeez Khan, residing at No. 16/19, Binny Crescent Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560 046.

2. Mrs. MAHNOOR SALMA, aged about 51 years, D/o late Azeez Khan, W/o. Intikhab Alam, r/at No.B-62, Rema Sky View Apartment, 2nd Main, K.R. Garden, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore-560017,

3. Mrs. NIKHAT MAHJA BEEN aged about 50 years, D/o late Azeez Khan W/o. Tahir Basher Anim, r/at Gangothri Nagara,Tumkur -572 103.

4. Mrs.MOONA KHAN, aged about 49 years, D/o. late Azeez Khan, W/o. Ahmed Abdul Azeez Nadeem, r/at No.54, 5th Cross, Williams Town Extn, Bangalore-560046.

Petitioner No.2 to 4 are represented by Their GPA Holder

Mr. MOHAMMED IMRAN KHAN, aged about 48 years, S/o. late Azeez Khan, residing at No. 16/19, Binny Crescent Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560 046.

PETITIONERS

A N D:

NIL **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above Petitioners 1 to 4 have made a Petition before the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, most respectfully praying to grant of Succession Certificate in respect of the Estate of deceased Mother Tabassum W/o .late Azeez Khan who was expired on 03/11/2022, which described in the petition schedule property.

Any interested parties are hereby wanted to appear before this Hon'ble Court in P.&.S.C No.25039/2024, pending before City Civil Judge, May Hall, Bangalore CCH.No.20, in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 15/07/2024 at 11.A.M to show cause against the petition, failing which the matter will be heard determined ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Bank Locker Number 88 linked in Saving Bank Account Number 54040879230 of Petitioners' deceased Mother Tabassum W/o. Azeez Khan, with State Bank of India, situated at Lady Curzon Road, Opp Bowring Hospital, Shivaji nagar, Bangalore-560 001.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 22nd day of June 2024.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore.

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Parking policy: Take it beyond the streets

Last month, the court gave six weeks to the BBMP Commissioner to submit a detailed project report on the methodology of implementing the BBMP's Parking Policy 2.0

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

The Parking Policy 2.0 had its objectives clear: to shift from free, chaotic parking to paid, well-organised parking; to streamline the system by strengthening enforcement through robust active management based on demand. FILE PHOTO

Streamlined parking as a tool for traffic decongestion is a no-brainer. But the glaring lack of a parking policy, an apparently flawed pay-and-park system, and the ceaseless onslaught of newly registered vehicles in their thousands has left Bengaluru's roads in a chaotic mess. Can a recent High Court directive effect a change?

Last month, the Court gave six weeks to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner to submit a detailed project report on the methodology of implementing the BBMP's Parking Policy 2.0. The much-delayed implementation of the policy has left vast road stretches of the city narrowed down by haphazardly parked two-wheelers and cars, with regulation nowhere in sight.

Big on objectives

Approved by the state government as early as February 2021, the Parking Policy 2.0 had its objectives clear: To shift from free, chaotic parking to paid, well-organised parking; to streamline the system by strengthening enforcement through robust active management based on demand. To address the issues, the policy prepared an Area Parking Plan (APP) for multiple zones across the city.

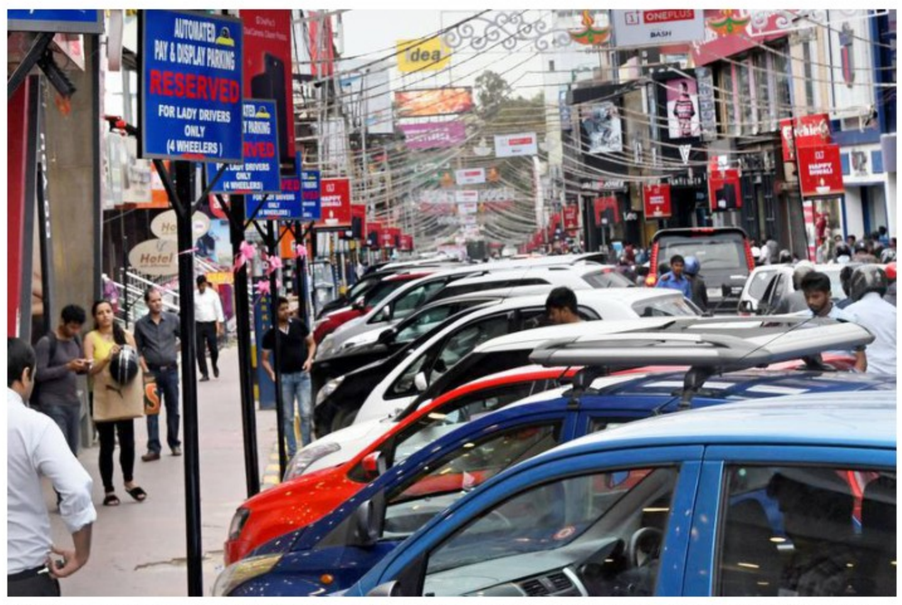
A zonal-level comprehensive parking plan, the APP focused on regulation of on-street parking in commercial and residential areas, off-street parking plans, special parking for disabled persons and cyclists, pricing for parking, management of parking and more.

To activate this, the plan proposed identifying high parking demand areas, existing parking facilities and their utilization besides gaps in demand and supply. The idea was to achieve a far more efficient use of road space, while boosting sustainable mobility options.

Encroachments

The city's parking chaos stems from a major issue: Encroachment of parking lots within commercial, institutional and even residential buildings. As mobility analyst Ashwin Mahesh points out, "All these buildings were given permissions and plan approvals to construct and occupy only on the assumption that the spaces they have indicated for parking will be used for parking."

The BBMP, he says, never imagined that single family homes, Ground +1 and +2 homes, would eventually become triple family homes, with one family on each floor. "Most of those buildings were constructed showing parking space for only one vehicle. Now every family on every floor has one vehicle. It is physically impossible to park there. All have externalized their requirement," he explains.



File photo of the first automated pay and car park reserved for women drivers displayed by the BBMP on Brigade Road.

Inevitably, this has meant invading the road space. "There are people who take their car out in the morning and leave it on the street. You can't do that, the street is for other users, not for parking your car, even in front of your house. We have now allowed a situation to develop where the number of violators is close to half a million.

Half of the city's cars are parked on the streets. Can you take action against half a million people?"

Streets rendered unsafe

The 2.0 Policy had acknowledged this problem, when it stated: "Residential streets in neighbourhoods are meant for local movement and till a decade ago were also safe havens for light recreation by children and the elderly alike. However, today most residential neighbourhood streets are overtaken by on-street parking rendering these streets not only unsafe but also at times inaccessible to ambulances and fire tender vans during an emergency."

Lack of any regulation on residential area on-street parking, coupled with violations of the zoning regulations (ZR) of the master plan has resulted in significant increase in on-street parking demand, says the policy note. In a telling comment, the policy adds that "the burden of providing parking space for personal vehicles should be on the vehicle owner and not the civic agency."

St. Mark's Road way

Messy on-street parking had left St. Mark's Road in the city's Central Business District (CBD) highly congested. But a total revamp of the road under the TenderSURE project had the footpath widened and a finite number of parking slots neatly earmarked. Owners were not happy, as they had converted their basements into office spaces and left all vehicles on the road. Eventually all had to fall in line.

Strict enforcement and smart road design here meant efficient parking and traffic management, particularly beyond the peak school opening and closure hours. "Essentially, the real issue is the BBMP's willingness or unwillingness to enforce whatever the parking policy is. If they do not enforce the rules, it doesn't matter what the policy is," Ashwin notes.

Poor regulation and enforcement have left not just the CBD but residential areas also in a mess, says Murali Urs, a software sales director residing in the city's R.T. Nagar. "Permissions given for converting houses to offices have added to the problem in residential areas. The massive shortage of parking slots in the CBD during weekends can be overcome to a great extent if BBMP allows commercial buildings to open their parking space for the public on a chargeable basis," he suggests.

Multi-level car parking

Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) was once pushed as a concrete solution to the problem. But the facility on J.C. Road has poor occupancy at any point in time.

Another MLCP is soon to be launched at Freedom Park to cater to vehicle owners in Gandhinagar and surrounding areas. This facility has a capacity to accommodate 600 four-wheelers and 750 two-wheelers. Compulsion is likely to dictate occupancy. The MLCP on K.G. Road has higher occupancy thanks to the no-parking zones demarcated along surrounding streets. At Freedom Park too, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have banned parking on the surrounding Hospital Road, Subedar Chatram Road and Tank Bund Road.

Walkability is key

But there is a walkability problem for all parking zones and MLCPs. Once the vehicle owner parks his / her car or two-wheeler at the designated slot, the last-mile walk gets complicated. As Ashwin says, "For every parking spot with a meter, the geography served by it should be walkable on a clear, well-lit, safe and level footpath. Only then you can start penalising people for not using that spot."

Now, can a parking policy enable people to shift from private to public transport? "It is possible only if you are able to control private vehicle usage by clever use of the policy. Whenever you park outside your premises, you are parking on a public road and that cannot be taken for granted. When you park on a road that is not wide enough, you are blocking a whole lane for a dead car that is not moving people," explains urban architect Vijay N.

Parking as disincentive

Parking can act as a disincentive for private car ownership. Vijay cites the inner London model, where no building barring a few commercial outlets has parking slots within. Car owners have to pay and park outside, on the street. Since the parking fare is steep, people are forced to rethink car ownership and even the purchase of a second car.

This, says Vijay, "is a very clever way of strategically reducing congestion, private car ownership and increasing public transport use. But we, in Bengaluru, can only gradually reach there. We can't do this blindly without increasing access to public transport with good last-mile connectivity. Maybe we will reach there in 10 years, but a start should be made."

Manipal Hospitals partners with GOLA for organ donation awareness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Manipal Hospitals announces its collaboration with Anil Srivastsa, Founder of Gift of Life Adventure (GOLA) Foundation, in an effort to raise global awareness for organ donation. This partnership supports Anil's monumental year-long journey as an Indian Athlete to the World Transplant Games 2025 in Germany which will commence in July 2024, during Organ Donation Month in Bengaluru. The route will culminate in Dresden, Germany on August 10th, 2025, marking the 100th country visited by Anil by road on this life-changing mission.

Anil Srivastsa, a native of Bangalore and esteemed life coach, commenced his journey advocating for organ donation nearly a decade ago following a transformative incident. In 2014, Anil's brother, Dr. Arjun Srivats required a life-saving transplant due to severe renal failure. In a remarkable act of courage and love, Anil donated one of his kidneys and underwent surgery at Manipal Hospitals in Yeshwantpur. This act highlighted the prevalent misconceptions and reluctance surrounding organ donation within India. Since that pivotal moment, Anil has dedicated himself to dispelling myths and promoting the noble act of organ donation.

Anil has driven across 58 countries so far on this mission before setting off on this one, telling his story in over 1000 talks to over 300,000 people. He is now on his final journey around 40+ countries in Africa, Europe, North America, & Asia to bring Rotary Clubs together for the cause of promoting organ donation & the LIFT UP (Life Increasing Funded Transplants for the Underprivileged) Project.

Addressing on his effort, Anil Srivastsa, Founder, Gift of Life Adventure (GOLA) Foundation, said, "My journey in organ donation advocacy has been driven by a deep desire to save lives and dispel myths. The global response and the tangible impact on countless lives reaffirm my belief in the power of collective effort and humanitarian responsibility through love and compassion."

From the desirable to the derogatory

Wokeness, like political correctness, can tear when it is stretched too tight

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Wokeness has led to an imprecision in the language. TANASIRI

I was once asked by an editor to remove some sentences from something I had written because these might offend wokers. Wokers are people who apparently spend their time sucking everything positive out of the word 'woke' and packing it with something offensive.

Woke "refers to an awareness of abstract but powerful sociopolitical arrangements that disempower too many people," according to the linguist and *New York Times* columnist John McWhorter.

But few words have made the journey from the desirable to the derogatory with such speed in recent times.

Wokeness was politically on the Left, an act of inclusivity, respect for other cultures and ethnic variations; a warning against assuming the majority is automatically right. It showed support for the marginalised and that cannot be a bad thing.

But then those at the other end of the political spectrum began to ridicule it. In an article he wrote last year, the RSS leader Ram Madhav said, "Wokeism is an undefinable trait of being an anarchist all the time... Woke theory is that the minority opinion is of greater value than that of the majority." Politics corrupts language, and vice versa. Humpty Dumpty had said this might happen: "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less."

I suspect 'woke' struggles owing to the influence of another contemporary phenomenon, 'cultural appropriation.' Years ago, a friend of our son from college, a German, said she loved a saree. My wife presented her with one, but then the student became uncertain. Did we mind that she wore this Indian garment or would we be upset at the cultural appropriation? We wouldn't be insulted, my wife assured her, only happy (now that we were forced to think about it).

The novelist Lionel Shriver said at a literary festival, "Those who embrace a vast range of identities - ethnicities, nationalists, races, sexual and gender categories, classes of economic under-privileged and disability - are now encouraged to be possessive of their experience and to regard other peoples' attempts to participate in their lives and traditions as a form of theft."

It caused a furore. A Sudanese writer walked out of the speech, arguing (as she wrote later) that people should write "only within the confines of their experience and identity."

If that were the case, fiction would be dead and only autobiography would survive. It would mean detective novelists, thriller and science fiction writers would not be allowed to do their work. I don't think, for example, Agatha Christie has actually killed anybody, with or without her favourite poison.

Wokeness has led to an imprecision in the language, though. We no longer say 'batsman' in cricket, but 'batter', an actor can be of either gender (or any of its 37 variants).

Wokeness, like political correctness, can tear when it is stretched too tight. Wokers who do this can be a pain in the neck (or any other part of the anatomy if you think 'neck' discriminates against the others).

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1974

Experts to Study Medical Colleges Derecognition

Bangalore, June 23. Two separate teams of experts appointed by the Union Health Ministry will be visiting Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh next week to make an on-the-spot assessment of the facilities in the medical colleges whose derecognition has been recommended by the Indian Medical Council. Each team will consist of two experts The teams will complete their assessment in 10 days. Giving this information to pressmen here to-day, Dr. Karan Singh, Union Health Minister, said the Centre would take a final decision on the derecognition question after considering the reports of these teams along with the detailed reports that had been received recently from the State Governments and the recommendation of the IMC.

Karnataka Cabinet Panel to Watch Power Situation

Bangalore, June 23. A Cabinet sub-committee, with the Chief Minister, Mr- Devarai Urs. as Chairman, was constituted in Karnataka, to-day to review the power situation In the Slate on a day-to-day basis The Cabinet, to-day, reviewed the situation posed by the drop in the level of the Llnganamakki reservoir at the Sharavathl project, leading to the imposition of a 60 per cent energy cut for high tension installations, with effect from 6 a.m. to-morrow.

The Finance Minister Mr. M.Y. Ghorpade, told pressmen, the situation was serious and if It did not rain by the month end in the project's catchment area, the position would become serious.

CITYBEATS

No monkey business

ONGOING
Monkey Bar Bengaluru is serving a regional cocktail and food menu, inspired from the diverse culinary traditions across India. Enjoy cocktails in flavours such as Curry at 9 (Kerala-inspired curry gin) and rum cha (Old Monk and *masala* tea cordial) accompanied by a range of curries and more.
At Bar, Museum Road, call 8655464500.

Spot a deal

ONGOING
Here is a chance to pick up a discount on jewellery and lifestyle accessories as part of a clearance sale. Also available are discounts on clothing as well as a collection of books and other knick knacks from the store's Recycle and Reuse section.
On at Serenity, Jayamahal Extension, from 10.30am to 6.30pm. Call 41279127 for details.

Clean bowled

ONGOING
Sanchez, Sriracha & Hops Haus introduce a special menu for the T20 World Cup. Curated by chef Vikas Seth, one can enjoy dishes such as Mexican *tortas*, Sriracha *baos*, pan-seared chicken, Sriracha corn fritters and more.
On at Sanchez and Sriracha, UB City, Vittal Mallya Road; Hops Haus at Embassy One, Whitefield.

A fine complement

Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Vijayakumar writes about the experience of finding herself and her art through yoga

Poetry in motion Dancer Rukmini Vijayakumar in various dance and yoga poses. VIVIAN AMBROSE

Rukmini Vijayakumar

In the silence of the music and the stillness of the movement , the expansive space of objectivity unfolds while I dance. In this space, everything seems leisurely, there is no urgency in the unfolding of characters and no visible end to this state of awareness. But as the muktayam plays, the awareness and objectivity diminish to a barely recognisable, miniscule presence within me, and I quickly emerge again with my name, my titles and roles, fully intact.

As a dancer who loved movement, the stillness of the physical practice of yoga was not very pleasurable as a teenager. I was restless and thrived on the physical gains of yoga more than the mental quiet and single pointed attention that it demanded. I was ecstatic with the physical prowess that I developed. My balances became more controlled, my legs felt like they had gained an inch with all the stretching and I could contort myself into shapes that seemed a far reach just months earlier. I skipped pranayama class, yoga nidra classes, and any class that didn't push me enough physically.

I didn't realise that years of dancing would bring me back to the same stillness of yoga, even if it was through movement. In a fast-paced tillana, I need the inner leisure and space that yoga was begging to offer me earlier, in order to truly 'dance'.

Dance and yoga have been intertwined in Indian culture – physically, and philosophically. Yoga and dance have the same deity – Shiva. He is often depicted seated in quiet meditation, or dancing with force, his matted locks creating gusts of wind, jumps causing mountains to erupt and twirls egging the waters of the ocean to rise. These two movement practices seem like contradictions, but in reality, they have the same effect on the mind that is seeking.

Yoga itself contrary to popular culture is not just a physical practice. The Hatha yoga that has become the most popular representation of yoga is misunderstood by many of us. Asana practice, is just asana practice. It has tremendous physical benefits, but I am hesitant to call it yoga in its true sense.

'Yogaha Chitra vritti nirodaha' (yoga is the restrictions of the fluctuations of the mind).

People have come to believe in the various paths of yoga that are a means to the same end. But all these paths are intertwined, inseparable like creepers that cling to one another for sustenance.

One cannot have bhakti, without knowledge. Bhakti is not an emotion, it is a revelation that the entire universe is made of the same fabric of creation. In that revelation, there is so much joy and celebration and love, that it becomes bhakti, a reverence for life itself. While we act in the world, constantly trying to make the right choice, for the simple reason that it is right, without expectations and without being tied emotionally to the fruit of our actions, we become Karma yogis. One, however, cannot be a Karma yogi without having love and celebration for the world around him/her. Bhakti becomes a part of this Karma.

Yoga itself is a system that enumerates how one can begin to appreciate the oneness of this universe and as a result become a more amicable, loving presence in society. Yoga strives to create 'samatvam', equanimity in us. It attempts to help us live our lives with awareness, fullness, love, gratitude and an ability to experience joys and sorrows, successes and failures with 'samatvam'.

In the initial years, my practice of Bharatanatyam, was all about technique and physical clarity, even the emotive parts were carefully practised and rehearsed endlessly. Now the technicality, rhythm, and aesthetics of classical dance feel like a part of me, and they no longer require constant reminding. During a performance, as I surrender to a character, I am forced to let go of 'Rukmini' as I know her. The titles, relationships, and accolades that seem to define me outside of the imaginary world, no longer hold a place as I allow the dance to take over. While executing the role of a character, I must have control, awareness, specificity, and surrender all at once. The emotions of the character overwhelm me, but I have *samatvam* while I am overwhelmed. There is precision of execution alongside absolute surrender.

I realise now, that this is the same awareness, distance, and complete surrender that our lives outside of performance and dance require. *Samatvam* equanimity, even when emotions overwhelm us, allows us to make decisions in the leisurely quiet of our minds. This is what yoga strives to teach us, and this is what has been revelatory for me in performance. While I strive to imbue this *samatvam* into my life, I deeply relish it's presence revealed in surrender to dance.

My fingers winding, circling my body
Eyes follow lost in a hypnotic trance
The tips of which touch and open
As water droplets trickle down my elbow.
In a moment they disappear into the expanse
Of the blue sky, the billowing clouds,
And again, I am in a web of circling droplets.
Every exhalation brings closer to me
My inner being swaddled in love,
Distant, engrossed, detached, passionate
Like sliding windows that exist all at once.
In dance I am the master, the power within,
I exude precision, tranquil rage, composed laughter.

Excerpt from *Finding Shiva* by Rukmini Vijayakumar

A hard, honest look at migrant life

FILM REVIEW

Vivek MV

In the last few years in Karnataka, locals have been vociferously fighting for the revival of Kannada pride and culture. *Chilli Chicken,* which revolves around migrants working in a hotel, is an important film, considering the current atmosphere in the state.

Be it at a restaurant or a salon, it is common to find workers from the North East Region. Our interaction with them is minimal, and we never pause to think about how they go about their daily lives.

Director Prateek Prajosh's film offers a peek into the world of these migrant workers and the movie begins with the statistics of how Bengaluru has the second-highest number of migrants in the country.

Khaba (Bijou Thaaangjam), Jimpa (Jimpa Sangpo Bhutia), Ajoy (Victor Thoudam), and Jason (Tomthin Thockchom) work for a hotel called Noodle Home, owned by Adarsh (Shrunga BV). They live in a tiny room, yet it's a luxury, according to Adarsh, who says it is almost a norm everywhere in the city to pack around 10 migrant workers in one room.

Someone like you A still from *Chilli Chicken*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is natural for these workers to feel alienated in a big city, but the film shows how a lot can change if they try to be one among the local people. The first step is to speak the state's language.

Chilli Chicken is an important film for workers who leave their homes to find a living in cosmopolitan places. The casual manner in which the four employees speak Kannada in the film was refreshing.

The film does not portray them as entirely misunderstood people. They choose the wrong path to make a quick buck, and when we hear stories of migrants nabbed for illegal activities, we know they have paid the price.

The movie, co-written by Prateek and KAS, is a quest for identity. Adarsh, played brilliantly by Shrunga, is a middle-class man with big dreams. His self-esteem takes control whenever his girlfriend or her father tries to measure his success with money.

Left alone in his pursuit, Adarsh calls Bengaluru his home and tells his employers they belong in the city. It is a poignant scene that best describes the film's core intention.

Harini Sundarajan (in a wonderfully-measured performance) plays a youngster who makes Instagram reels with progressive thoughts apart from balancing her different part-time jobs. Her character holds a mirror to those who stand up to people who get stuck in a time warp. Her quarrels with narrow-minded people are an attempt to fight discrimination even as the four migrants seek more respect from their employers and society in general.

After a solid twist in the plot, the film's screenplay turns wobbly. You also feel a sudden lack of focus from the filmmaker as the film's smooth pace takes a beating. *Chilli Chicken* does not take sides (Adarsh is not perfect while his rich girlfriend is not heartless either), making it difficult for the director to balance multiple narratives. The lives of the migrants and the struggles of Adarsh keep intercutting with each other, and it is not a smooth ride for the viewers.

Still, it is impressive of the director to treat a heavy topic in a deft, palpable manner. The film is helped by its humour quotient, and Siddhanth Sundar's beautiful songs propel the engagement factor.

The film's conclusion is quite convenient, yet *Chilli Chicken* has its heart in the right place. Harmonious co-existence is the only way forward for all of us to thrive and *Chilli Chicken* leaves us hoping for it.

Chilli Chicken is currently running in theatres

Chilli Chicken (Kannada)
Director: Prateek Prajosh
Cast: Shrunga BV, Bijou Thaangjam, Jimpa Sangpo Bhutia, Harini Sundararajan
Runtime: 123 minutes
Storyline: Five migrant workers from the North East work for Adarsh, a second-grade restaurant owner, who aspires to open a fine dining restaurant only for his plans to take a turn post a tragic incident

Cohesive whole Members of Mug to Mike. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Celebrating music and yoga

Praveen Sudevan

Bengaluru musician Sunil Koshy, the co-founder of the popular amateur singing platform, From Mug to Mike, has created a unique song, 'Sur Ki Baarish' (Rain of Melody), for World Music Day and World Yoga Day (June 21).

According to Sunil, this innovative anthem is not a typical song. Composed in a departure from tradition, 'Sur Ki Baarish' seamlessly blends seven pentatonic *ragas*, creating a melody that evolves throughout the piece. This is a first for Sunil, who explains, "The lyrics and tune do not repeat... This means more preparation for the team and practices for the singers."

The song is not just about experimentation with the ragas; it also carries a powerful message. Sunil hopes listeners will be inspired "to include music and yoga in their lives, for better, healthier lives and to be happy." Music lovers and students are encouraged to "explore beyond and ignite the curiosity to learn the composition and know about different ragas."

The accompanying video complements the song's message. Singers are showcased in serene outdoor settings with the lake and greenery near Jigani, South Bengaluru highlighting the calming nature of music. Interwoven with these scenes are yoga practitioners, led by instructor Nitesh Batra and his daughter Trayambika, who also contribute their voices to the song.

These shots were filmed at Batra's Ashtanga Yoga Sadhna studio in Bengaluru. The choice to showcase both music and yoga was not a coincidence.

"June 21 has been World Music Day for many decades. It also became Yoga Day in the last decade. So, the thought has been in our minds since the last year," says Sunil.

Sunil and his team plan to screen the music video among college students and music and yoga enthusiasts. They will also host a student show and online talent showcase to encourage people to follow their passions.

The creation of 'Sur Ki Baarish' was a collaborative effort. Sunil is joined by his long-time collaborator and lyricist Sahil Sultanpuri, who penned the evocative words that dance with the music.

The concept and direction come from Archana Hallikeri, who helped weave the music and yoga themes into a cohesive whole.

The voices filling the song belong to a talented group: Nidhi Srivastava, Jayati Roy, Dr. Jai Ganesh, BK Srinivas, Prabhudev Balappa, Metri Nitesh Batra, and a children's chorus featuring Aditi Ganguly, Trayambika Batra, and Aneesh Prabhudev Metri.

Sunil also teaches an elective, Music and Management, at MS Ramaiah Institute of Management.

INBRIEF

Amaravati farmers offer prayers in Vijayawada temple

Scores of farmers, who had parted with their lands for the construction of the capital city in Amaravati, prayed at the Goddess Kanaka Durga temple at Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Sunday. They had earlier taken a vow that they would offer prayers at the temple if the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance – that pledged support for making Amaravati the sole capital – came to power. They recalled that the YSRCP government had suppressed their agitations violently.

93-year-old man dead after bee attack in Chittoor district

A 93-year-old man, Bandi Narasimha Reddy, succumbed to a bee attack in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, his family members said. The incident occurred on June 14 morning, while the villagers were participating in a ritual dedicated to village deities under a tree on the village outskirts. Another elderly person, Bhaskar Reddy, who also sustained serious injuries in the bee attack, said that close to a dozen villagers were injured in the incident.

Two die in alleged incident of 'sorcery' in Andhra Pradesh

Mystery shrouds the death of two persons at Chuttumetta, an interior tribal hamlet in Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district in Andhra Pradesh. The police said that on June 20, Anasamma, 45, fell ill. Anasamma's brother Trinadh, suspecting that she was a victim of black magic, took her to Sahadev, who claimed to be a 'sorcerer'. It is said that when Sahadev reportedly blew some ash on the face of the woman, Trinadh and Sahadev died within minutes of inhaling the ash.

Hooch tragedy: Main supplier of methanol held as toll rises to 56

Sources said that Sivakumar was working at a private firm dealing in chemicals at Vadaperumpakkam near Puzhal

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/KALLAKURICHI

The police on Sunday arrested Sivakumar, 30, suspected to be one of the main suppliers of methanol to the sellers of illicit liquor, even as the death toll in last week's hooch tragedy in Kallakurichi district rose to 56.

A central investigation unit of the Enforcement wing of the Tamil Nadu police nabbed Sivakumar, who was hiding in his sister's house at Sulapallam under the MGR Nagar police station limits in Chennai, in the early hours of Sunday. He was handed over to the CB-CID for further investigation.

Sources said that he was working at a private firm

Sivakumar

dealing in chemicals at Vadaperumpakkam near Puzhal. The police also searched the factory premises, the sources added.

One more dies

Meanwhile, another person who consumed illicit liquor died on Sunday. So far, 31 persons have died at the Government Kallakurichi Medical College and Hospital; 18 at the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College and Hospital in Salem; four at the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital; and three at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Puducherry.

A total of 32 deaths were reported from Karunapuram, the epicentre of the tragedy..

As many as 216 persons have been hospitalised.

The case is being investigated by the Crime Branch CID (CB-CID), and it has been confirmed that the deaths were due to the consumption of illicit liquor mixed with methanol.

Ten people have been arrested in connection with the case so far.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 22 T.N. fishermen from Rameswaram

The Hindu Bureau
RAMESWARAM

In a fresh incident, the Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday arrested 22 Tamil Nadu fishermen on charges of poaching at Delft Island.

Three mechanised boats, and their catch were seized. According to the Fisheries Department, the fishermen were taken to Kankesanthurai Port, and were likely to be produced before a court after interrogation. Fishing resumed, after the annual 61-day ban, on June 15. Within two days, three fishermen from the coastal district died after a mechanised boat developed snag. Now, these fresh arrests have brought psychological pressure and anxiety in fishermen, P. Jesu Raja, a fishermen leader, said. In Thangachimadam, fishermen associations convened a meeting and unanimously resolved to boycott fishing with immediate effect.

A view of a flooded road in Thiruvananthapuram.

Orange alert for three districts in Kerala today

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for very heavy rain in three districts of Kerala – Kozhikode, Kannur, and Kasaragod – on Monday.

A yellow alert has also been issued warning of isolated heavy rain for the remaining districts, except for Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam.

According to a weather bulletin issued by the IMD on Sunday, strong westerly and southwesterly winds prevail in the lower levels over Kerala and Lakshadweep region triggered by a trough that runs off the Maharashtra-Kerala coasts.

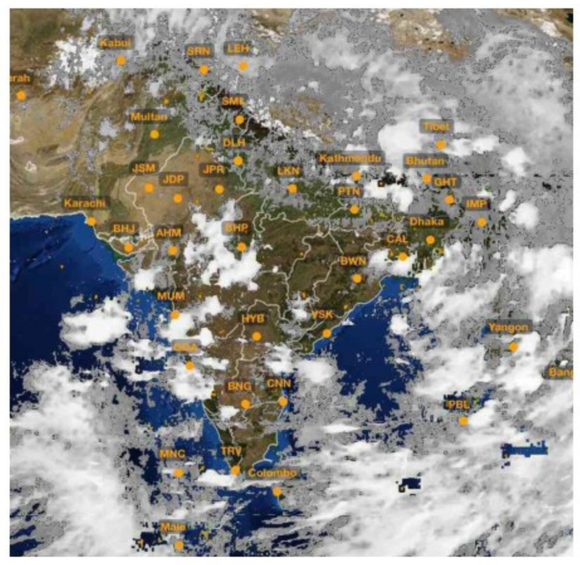
Under its influence, rain or thundershowers is most likely to occur at most places in Kerala until June 29.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea as squally weather with wind speeds ranging from 35 kmph to 45 kmph and gusting to 55 kmph is likely to prevail along the Kerala coast.

Meanwhile, Kudulu in Kasaragod recorded the highest rainfall of 8 cm during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, and Karnataka, Assam, Tamil Nadu. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Squally weather with wind speed 35 kmph to 45 kmph gusting likely to prevail over Lakshadweep area.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.5	27.2	Kozhikode	16.0	31.2	24.7
Ahmedabad	—	38.6	28.7	Kurnool	0.2	34.8	26.2
Aizawl	5.0	32.6	23.0	Lucknow	—	39.8	29.6
Allahabad	9.0	40.7	27.0	Madurai	—	36.8	26.9
Bengaluru	—	30.3	21.2	Mangaluru	41.0	29.8	23.5
Bhopal	—	35.8	25.4	Mumbai	23.0	31.9	24.3
Bhubaneswar	3.6	34.4	26.8	Mysuru	—	29.0	—
Chandigarh	—	40.4	30.3	New Delhi	—	39.4	29.1
Chennai	—	36.8	28.0	Patna	—	39.1	30.1
Coimbatore	—	31.2	23.2	Port Blair	25.0	29.2	24.4
Dehradun	—	34.8	26.5	Puducherry	0.4	35.6	25.2
Gangtok	10.0	25.0	18.6	Pune	1.0	35.0	25.6
Goa	29.0	31.5	25.3	Raipur	20.0	31.6	25.7
Guwahati	2.0	36.5	27.2	Ranchi	—	34.0	24.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	0.3	25.9	17.5
Hyderabad	4.0	33.2	24.6	Shimla	—	26.6	17.2
Imphal	0.2	32.7	17.1	Srinagar	—	29.5	15.7
Jaipur	—	39.2	29.6	Thiruvananthapuram	5.0	30.4	24.3
Kochi	31.0	28.6	24.6	Tiruchi	5.6	35.7	27.0
Kohima	—	23.9	18.6	Vijayawada	5.0	35.5	26.0
Kolkata	—	36.0	27.6	Visakhapatnam	12.0	30.7	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	.44	.—	167	130	
Bengaluru	.15	.22	78	42	54	
Chennai	.5	.87	.7	75	66	
Delhi	.33	.24	63	290	126	
Hyderabad	.13	.12	20	64	77	
Kolkata	.8	.45	34	19	28	
Lucknow	.9	.12	21	83	90	
Mumbai	.32	.10	12	17	101	
Pune	.—	.30	85	62	56	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.50	14	41	88	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 241 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Rahul Gandhi writes a letter thanking people of Wayanad

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A day ahead of taking oath as the MP for Rae Bareli in the 18th Lok Sabha, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi penned a letter thanking the people of Wayanad constituency, which he had represented for five years from 2019.

After winning from both Wayanad and Rae Bareli in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, he had decided to relinquish the Wayanad seat, from where his sister Priyanka Gandhi is expected to contest the bypolls.

Saying that the people of Wayanad are part of his family, Mr. Gandhi thanked them for "the love and protection" they gave him

Rahul Gandhi

when he needed it most.

"When I faced abuse day after day, your unconditional love protected me. You were my refuge, my home and my family. I never felt for even a moment that you doubted me. I will remember the countless flowers and hugs you gave me. Each one given with such genuine love and tenderness. How can I ever forget the bravery, beauty and confidence with which young girls would translate my speeches in front of thousands of people. It was truly a joy and an honour to be your voice in Parliament," he wrote.

'Cherished bond'

He further wrote that he was sad to relinquish the constituency, but was consoled by the fact that his sister would be there in his place. "I am also consoled because I have a loving family in the people of Rae Bareli and a bond that I cherish deeply. My commitment to both you and the people of Rae Bareli is that we will fight and defeat the hatred and violence being spread in the country," he wrote.

O.R. Kelu sworn in as Minister in Kerala Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) leader O.R. Kelu, MLA for Mananthavady in Wayanad district, was sworn in as a Minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government at a function held at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Kelu at the function held in the afternoon. Chief Minister Vijayan, his Cabinet colleagues, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) V.D. Satheesan, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P.K. Kunhalikutty, party leaders and officials were present. Mr. Kelu's close relatives too were present at the brief swearing-in function in the city.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan greeting O.R. Kelu on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Kelu becomes the second Minister in the State from a Scheduled Tribes community after P.K. Jayalakshmi of the Congress, who was part of the United Democratic Front (UDF) government during 2011-2016. He has taken over the post left vacant by K. Radhakrishnan, former Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who has been elected to the Lok Sabha. In the days leading up to the swearing-in, the Opposition UDF and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had slammed the government for reportedly not allocating the Devaswom and Parliamentary Affairs portfolios, also held by Mr. Radhakrishnan, to Mr. Kelu, supposedly to "appease the upper castes".

Later, speaking to mediapersons at his office, Mr. Kelu said that his priority would be to effectively implement the welfare projects for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Advisory panel meeting

"Along with continuing the ongoing projects in the department, I will also attempt to address the issues in this sector to my utmost capacity. After the current Assembly session concludes, a meeting of the State-level advisory committee of the department will be convened to discuss such issues and fix priorities," he said. Mr. Kelu said that as a legislator from Wayanad, he would continue to intervene in issues related to human-animal conflict and take steps to protect the life and property of those residing closer to the forest regions.

His first decision as a Minister was to implement an online system for speedy disbursal of medical assistance to ST communities.

Beginning his stint in grassroots-level politics as a ward member at the Thirunelly grama panchayat in Wayanad, Mr. Kelu later went on to become the president of the panchayat and a member of the Mananthavady block panchayat. Since 2016, he has been representing the Mananthavady Assembly constituency.

Telangana Minister sends notice to BRS MLA on 'fly ash' issue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has served a legal notice on BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy and a Telugu newspaper and a TV channel, accusing them of "tarnishing" his image and levelling "baseless allegations" on the transport of fly ash from the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Ramagundam.

The notice was served on Mr. Kaushik Reddy; *T News* managing director Joginapally Santosh Kumar; *Namaste Telangana* newspaper editor Tigulla Krishnamurthy; Telangana Publication Pvt. Ltd.; and Telangana Broadcasting Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Reddy had earlier alleged that Mr. Prabhakar was engaged in the illegal transportation of fly ash from NTPC, Ramagundam, and making ₹50 lakh illegally with the lorries carrying more than the permitted capacity.

He had claimed that the Minister's nephew Anup was collecting the money. Mr. Reddy added that Mr. Prabhakar had intercepted 13 trucks that were carrying fly ash more than the permitted capacity but the department had seized only two trucks. The remaining were released after the Minister intervened and called up officials.

Fear of IEDs returns to Telangana's border villages

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), an old tactic of left-wing extremists to thwart advance of forces and ambush them, is emerging as a fresh challenge for the police on the Telangana-Chhattisgarh boundary.

Two civilians have been killed while three sustained grievous injuries in five separate incidents of IED explosions in the bordering districts of the two States in the past three months. The police believe the IEDs were planted by operatives of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoists) and were targeted at them.

"However, unsuspecting villagers moving in interior places of the forest and villages for livelihood

Big seizure: Bundles of sharp-edged sticks used by Maoists to prepare booby traps targeting security forces. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

are becoming victims of the Maoists' tactics," said an State intelligence officer keeping track of Maoist movements. With the persistent combing operations of the commando forces of the two States coupled with efforts of local police, the movement of Maoists had been on the decline considerably in the past few years.

In the past few months, Maoists suffered serious losses with their members and leaders getting killed in "exchanges of fire" in Chhattisgarh. The use of IEDs had been a tactic of operatives (especially of People's War Group of Naxalites now known as Maoists after merging with Maoist Communist Centre of India) since the late 1980s.

First evidence

The first evidence of Maoists' plan to use IEDs was found during an exchange of fire at Nachinapalli village of Warangal district in the mid-1980s. After the firing, the police stumbled upon a notebook which showed that Maoists were learning techniques of laying landmines and using IEDs.

Using IEDs as a tactic, Maoists inflicted serious losses on security forces in the late 1980s. With the decline of their movement, the usage of IEDs also almost disappeared. With the security forces launching vigorous searches, Maoist operations further dwindled. "Confusing and irritating the enemy" was the objective of IED usage by them. Stalling movement of the police (even temporarily) and ambushing them is one of the main goals of the tactic. The moment an IED explosion takes place, security forces would become cautious.

They would have to spend their time in sanitising the areas where they conduct searches. This gives time to the Maoists to change their strategy. In the conflict between the Maoists and security agencies, innocent people are becoming victims of the former's tactics.

V.S. Krishna of Human Rights Forum called the use of IEDs undesirable. Such tactic was unacceptable since it endangered lives of civilians, he said, noting that he was yet to ascertain facts about recent IED explosions.

Thrissur priests get a warning from Archbishop

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Andrews Thazhath, archbishop of Thrissur, has warned priests in the archdiocese, who expressed solidarity with their counterparts in the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese, who are in favour of full people-facing mass as against the synod-sanctioned mass. The archbishop told the priests to stand firmly with the official position of the Church.

He said on June 21: "Let me bring to your attention the liturgical controversy in Ernakulam. It is more a matter of obedience and communion in the Church than merely rubrics".

Limit and excess

Creamy layer should be kept out, but the ceiling on quota is artificial

The Patna High Court judgment striking down enhanced reservation for various communities in employment and education marks yet another instance of the strict application of the 50% ceiling on total reservations by the judiciary. The verdict has invalidated the Nitish Kumar regime's decision of last year to amend its quota law to raise Backward Classes (BC) reservation from 12% to 18%, that of Extremely Backward Communities (EBC) from 18% to 25%, and those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 16% to 20% and 1% to 2%, respectively. This took the total reservation level to 65%. Applying judicial precedents that have now crystallised into a legal bar on reservations exceeding 50%, the court has inflicted a huge blow to the Bihar government's plan to utilise its Caste Survey findings to expand its affirmative action programme. The government may have erred in its policy approach – armed with caste-wise population numbers – when its preamble to the amending law said it aimed to achieve "proportionate equality". The court agreed with the petitioners challenging the increased quotas on a key point: that adequate representation does not mean 'proportionate representation', as clarified in the famous nine-judge verdict in *Indra Sawhney* (1992). If any attempt to raise the quota level earmarked for any section to be in proportion to the State's population results in the total reservation percentage exceeding the permissible limit, it is liable to be unconstitutional.

However, it is unfortunate that the court was so zealous about the reservation ceiling, that it rejected the State's argument on the existence of special circumstances. *Indra Sawhney* did allow the quota ceiling to be exceeded in "extraordinary situations". It suggested that the population living in remote or far-flung areas may require to be treated in a different way. The court seems to have taken that geographical remoteness is the only special situation to justify an enhanced quota and denied the benefit to Bihar. It is difficult to believe that a State which is backward in most parameters of human and social development should be denied the use of its executive and legislative power to expand its social justice programme. The court surely saw merit in the argument that there was no in-depth study before enhanced reservation was implemented. This raises the question whether the survey was indeed quite exhaustive when it gave a caste-wise break-up of the population and their economic conditions. While there may be a case for pruning the BC or EBC list based on the progress made over the last few decades, it might not be just to stymie every attempt to enhance the numerical representation of historically deprived sections on the ground that it exceeds the quota ceiling.

Money and muscle

Whatever AIADMK's reasons for the boycott, ECI must ensure fair polling

Assembly by-elections seldom throw up surprises. In Tamil Nadu, close to three out of four by-polls since 1977, when the AIADMK first swept to power, have gone to the ruling party (or its allies). The July 10 by-election to the Vikravandi constituency, located in the relatively backward Villupuram district of the northern part of the State, might not break this pattern, but the main Opposition, the AIADMK, has added a new dimension by announcing a poll boycott. The ostensible reason was its fear that the ruling DMK would "indulge in enormous use of money and muscle power...", just as in the Erode (East) by-poll in 2023. But, clearly, the AIADMK, which drew a blank in the 2024 general election, is wary of failure again. The DMK, the PMK (as a constituent of the BJP-led NDA), and the Naam Tamilar Katchi are in the fray. The AIADMK could also be trying to woo back the PMK. In any case, the boycott does not behove a serious party. But whatever the AIADMK's rationale, its stated explanation is a challenge for the election authorities, who will have to ensure a free and transparent bypoll. Previous by-elections have been marred by the flow of gifts and money. In Erode (East), the AIADMK had even alleged that the DMK had confined sections of electors in election offices during the campaign.

There is a widespread perception that the laws with regard to bribery as an electoral offence are no deterrent to political parties, especially those in power. While it is not difficult to sharpen the laws, the question is whether they will be enforced in a fair manner. So, it is up to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to now erase these misgivings. The most powerful weapon that the ECI has against recognised political parties is the power to freeze their symbols. But, this has never been used in Tamil Nadu even when allegations of electoral offences surfaced. In the past decade, on two occasions when the AIADMK was in power, the ECI was tough when it rescinded, in 2016, the polling process in Aravakurichi and Thanjavur during the election to the State Assembly. And, in April 2017, a few days ahead of polling, it cancelled the R.K. Nagar by-poll over money power and the offering of allurements to the electorate. It is another matter that when the elections to the three seats were held later, the candidates who were in the news earlier for the wrong reasons, emerged victorious. Unless the ECI sends out a strong message that there will be no tolerance of bribery, there will not be much change on the ground. Also, the electorate should not be swayed by either money or freebies. In this regard, civil society organisations too have a crucial role to play.

Parliament's changed bench strength spells more hope

K.V. Prasad

Delhi-based senior journalist

There is a great sense of expectation from the 18th Lok Sabha, with the inaugural session scheduled to commence on June 24. The hope is that the new House will be different in its working and its deliberations during its tenure. The anticipation arises from the reduced numerical presence of the governing coalition's lead partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the increased strength of a combined Opposition, led by the Congress, than what it was during the previous two editions of the Lok Sabha.

After a hiatus of a decade, a government is a coalition, headed by the leader of the single-largest party, and now dependent on crucial support from two regional allies, the Janata Dal (United) and the Telugu Desam Party. Though, technically, the BJP helmed the National Democratic Alliance government, between 2014-24, the situation then was different as the lead party had comfort in bench strength, an element missing for the present.

More space for the Opposition

The verdict handed over by the people in 2024 is clear. The country requires a stronger Opposition, which can put forth views that are in contrast with the policies and programmes of the governing coalition, and blunt the ability of the lead party to vigorously push its agenda without facing resistance. As new members of the 18th Lok Sabha take oath, the combined Opposition strength stands a little over 230, while the governing coalition with over 300 members, tips the scales precariously in its favour.

This change in the constitution of the new House gives rise to the hope that there would be greater accommodation on behalf of the government towards concerns of the Opposition. During the past decade, Members of Parliament opposed to the government complained that behind the wall of majority, the BJP's parliamentary managers conceded little space. The instances often cited to back this claim were the non-acceptance, in Parliament, of notices for adjournment or discussions on issues such as the border situation since the bloody clashes with China, and attendant matters.

On the other hand, the government's insistence on performance measured in terms of productivity on legislation became a barometer for the efficacy of Parliament. While both Houses of Parliament remain the only place to legislate laws for the country, the tendency of the governing coalition's parliamentary managers to secure passage without adequate scrutiny and debate become a bone of contention with the Opposition. The sheer presence of its greater numbers permitted the government to follow the latter portion of the adage that the 'opposition can have its say, the government will have its way'.

The norm of subjecting proposed legislation to parliamentary oversight in the form of scrutiny by committees of jurisdiction became scarce. Three decades ago, Parliament decided to expand the committee system and introduced an additional layer of reading of the Bills. It served Parliament well, permitting Members across the aisle to deliberate on Bills in a non-partisan and dispassionate manner and offer recommendations to fine-tune proposed legislation. The rationale of conducting committee meetings away from the public glare or providing access to the media during its deliberations was to prevent the proclivity of members to grand-stand on party lines. Unanimity was the mantra.

> In the 18th Lok Sabha, the governing coalition and the Opposition need to do justice to parliamentary business

Committees have been transacting a load of business in examining issues and hearing suggestions from domain experts which become integral in arriving at recommendations on a subject under study. For instance, the Opposition cited the three controversial farm laws that were cleared without referral to the Committee, leading to protests and eventually forcing the government to withdraw them.

The Opposition's contention was that an examination by the committee of jurisdiction and its consultation process would have provided the government a well-rounded view. This opportunity was missed. The system of parliamentary oversight cannot be equated to placing Bills in the public domain and inviting suggestions, which are then vetted by bureaucratic processes. The committee work begins after the Ministry concerned drafts a Bill incorporating, if need be, suggestions flowing from the public.

Both Houses have separate Rules of Procedure and Conduct. While following these meticulously is expected, Parliament also functions on time-honoured conventions. For instance, when the Minister makes a *suo motu* statement on any issue in Rajya Sabha, the Chair can permit members to seek clarifications, a convention that is unique to the House.

While many advocate the need for a debate between contesting candidates during elections on the lines of the U.S. presidential candidates, the unique practice of holding the elected government of the day is at play each day during Question Hour. Ministers come prepared to take questions from Members, which reflects the extent of the grasp of the subject of those seeking information and the one who is duty-bound to respond. The schedule of the calendar allocates Ministries on specific days including the Prime Minister's Office. In the last 10 years, the Prime Minister has not made an intervention even as a junior Minister has responded. Another practice given a go by is the Prime Minister making a statement after his foreign travels, a task sometimes delegated to the Minister of External Affairs.

The post of Speaker

The first test of the governing coalition and the combined Opposition in Parliament will be when Members of Parliament of the new Lok Sabha will be called upon to elect the Speaker and custodian of the House. The governing coalition has the numbers to place its own person even though the Opposition may seek to test the waters. However, the second test will be on the election of the Deputy Speaker, a constitutional post that remained vacant during the five-year tenure of the 17th Lok Sabha. Citing convention and tradition, the Opposition expects the position to be offered to it in the current House. During the past four decades, there have been exceptions when a member belonging to a party outside the government was elected. In 1985 and then again in 2014, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's M. Thambidurai secured the honour.

As for the proceedings, the new session will offer the Opposition ample opportunity to critically evaluate the policies and programmes of the government, which will be put forth during the address of the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, to Members of both the Houses sitting together. The ensuing debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address offers an opening for the Opposition to pick up and analyse threadbare issues of concern without getting hemmed by the topic being germane. In a way, the Motion can be likened to be an omnibus resolution.

Significantly, just days after the Lok Sabha results, the chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Mohan Bhagwat articulated his thoughts which lay emphasis on consensus building and suggesting that the Opposition must be viewed as a political opponent and not an adversary.

Points of friction

In the run-up to the inaugural session of the new Lok Sabha, points of friction between the governing coalition and the Opposition cropped up on two occasions. The Congress objected to the manner in which the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar was shifted to a newly constructed and designated spot called 'Prerna Sthal" (or an inspirational place) within Parliament's precincts and also the decision to appoint BJP's Bhartruhari Mahtab as *pro tem* Speaker.

The first decision, it contended, was arrived at without due process established in Parliament, while the second decision, on the *pro tem* Speaker ignored the convention that senior-most members in the current House should have been appointed to complete the formalities of the swearing-in of new Members of Parliament. The Speaker, Om Birla, dismissed the first by stating that consultations were held and 'that there was no need to indulge in politics on this'. In the second instance, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Kiren Rijiju, went public criticising the Congress for politicising the appointment.

By calling on the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge earlier, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister indicated that in parliamentary democracy, the governing coalition would follow time-honoured traditions. As days progress and regular sessions begin, the role will require dexterity to underscore that the spirit of accommodation. While the governing coalition should be in the forefront to take every shade of opinion along, the Opposition needs to recalibrate its strategy to extract the best by taking recourse to parliamentary tools on the anvil. And, the onus will be on all sides to maintain civility in debate.

Create the space for governance with a green heart

Satyajit Sarna

a practising lawyer in New Delhi

Arun Srikumar

a practising lawyer in New Delhi

As a new term begins for the government and the Lok Sabha, it must have green concerns close to the heart. While we have never had a government that truly put the environment first, the last one, which was in pursuit of its 'development' agenda, proved to be actively inimical to the interests of the environment. For more than a dozen years, Environment Ministers have been concerned primarily with the welfare of mining, oil, coal, highways, and power industries. India stands on the cusp of severe environmental degradation, which can only be arrested by the conscious adoption of green policies even as the country pursues the goal of becoming a middle-income economy. These are the areas that need to be addressed urgently.

Greater vulnerability

Climate change is something India's leadership mentions often but does little to engage with (with the limited exception of promoting the solar energy industry). Even as energy consumption soars, no steps have been taken to consciously pursue an agenda of cutting down emissions. More importantly, the remediatory aspects of climate change which include building resilience, food security, and access to essentials have fallen far behind in priorities. As floods, famines, heatwaves, wildfires, water shortages and droughts become increasingly common, contingency plans must be put in place to protect vulnerable populations and diminish harm. From updating building guidelines to preserving natural storm barriers such as mangrove forests, to establishing funds for evacuation and rehabilitation, these are the tasks that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has had no time for recently.

First, forest cover, India has one of the world's lowest levels of green cover per capita. It has only 28 trees per headcount of the populace, in contrast with Canada's 8953 or even China's 130. Qualitatively important forest cover has decreased significantly in the last 20 years, and the less said about urban forestry the better. The damage to our forests has been covered up with questionable accounting, which includes plantation forests and tree cover in urban centres. Recent legislation such as the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, which was legislation ramrodded through the outgoing Parliament, needs to be rolled back and robust new protections put in place.

> A conscious focus on green policies is crucial as environmental issues in India impact the survival and the health of millions

Second, unliveable cities. The metropolitan centres of India have overgrown any plans that were laid for them. Delhi, Mumbai and a large swathe of tier 2 and tier 3 cities across the Gangetic belt now have unacceptable levels of air pollution, destroying the lifespans of their residents. Bengaluru and Delhi are running out of water, and the poor have to queue for hours to have access to the bare minimum. The rivers that brought life to cities, such as the Adyar in Chennai or the Yamuna in Delhi, have become open sewers. Green spaces and water bodies in cities have been built over, which has created heat islands. Smaller cities have more manageable problems, but without timely intervention, will reach the same crisis levels as the metros. Sewage treatment specifically requires a major national overhaul as Indian cities treat only approximately 28% of the sewage they generate.

Destruction in the Himalayas

Third, concerns in the Himalayas. Climate change has had outsize repercussions in the mountains of India. Glaciers are rapidly receding, and in some places, have disappeared. Up to 80% of their volume is forecast to disappear in this century. Rainfall and temperature patterns have changed beyond recognition. This impacts the water and food security of not just the people of the mountains but also of much of North India. When thousands of Ladakhis fasted and protested to demand governmental action they were ignored – perhaps because they held no votes. Similar concerns arise for wetlands – whose importance has never been greater– and other marginal landscapes which are critical for biodiversity as well. Fourth, public participation. At the root of many of these problems is the Indian government's age-old refusal to listen to stakeholders and affected persons. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) mechanisms have become mere checkboxes to be ticked for all projects. Protests are swept aside, criticism is ignored, and the absence of a meaningful Opposition has resulted in rapid, ill-considered steps being taken. The Char Dham Highway project is an example. Passed through amidst a barrage of small EIAs, the grandiose scheme has caused irreparable harm to the river valleys of Uttarakhand. The deforestation and erosion caused has created additional unforeseen risks, best exemplified by the tunnel collapse of November 2023. More importantly, the sanctity of the EIA Notification of 2006 has been watered down over the last five years with hundreds of amendments. EIA mechanisms need to be elevated to statutory status, so that they are beyond such sabotage.

Restore genuine conservation

Fifth, greenwashing. Ill-advised policies, which have been driven by commercial interest, such as green credits and compensatory afforestation, have taken the place of genuine conservation efforts. Sustainable development does not mean that only commercially profitable steps may be taken by the government. Enforcement mechanisms and bodies also need more teeth so as to ensure genuine environmental rule of law.

These are not luxury concerns. They impact the survival and the health of millions. The absence of these issues from the election manifestos of the major political parties was bitterly disappointing. But it is not too late. If the government is to truly be the steward of the people, it must start by taking a hard look at the physical health of the country.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The examination system

The stream of irregularities as far as the conduct of all-India competitive and prestigious examinations by the National Testing Agency is disheartening for young students (Page 1, "Govt. removes NTA chief, hands over probe to CBI", June 23). From the NEET-UG fiasco and UGC-NET cancellation to the NEET-PG postponement, the central government must address the concerns of young people. The government should overhaul the NTA's systems. What is happening now is no blemish but the creation of a deep scar on India's education system.

Shihab Kattathar,
Mangaluru

The NTA has ended up playing with the lives of innocent students who have spent their precious time and energy in preparing for these examinations. The events are extremely dismaying and gloomy. There needs to be a thorough investigation.

K. Sudha Rani,
Secunderabad

Indian Railways and safety challenges

Sudhanshu Mani

Retired General Manager/Indian Railways, Leader of Train 18/Vande Bharat project and independent rail consultant

The dust and din have not settled since the tragic accident involving the GFCJ container train (goods train), which, while travelling at high speed, rammed into the 13174 Agartala-Sealdah Kanchanjunga Express, resulting in 11 deaths and approximately 40 injuries. Amidst the uproar, it is very important to examine some critical points.

Thanks to focused measures like closing unmanned level crossings and emphasising track maintenance, the safety record of Indian Railways in terms of fatalities and injuries has certainly improved. However, comparing this data to past records to paint a rosy picture is misleading. Modern systems and tools make achieving a zero-fatality record an attainable goal, and this is what the Railways should be pursuing. Moreover, the Union government's substantial investment, allocating nearly 25% of its total capex to railways, makes funding all safety works well within the Indian Railway's reach. The non-availability of resources cannot be a red herring any more.

A statutory inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) is under way, and the cause and responsibility for the accident will soon be determined. It is almost a foregone conclusion that the crew of the GFCJ container train, the station master, and perhaps even the signal maintainer will be held responsible for ignoring the stipulated Automatic Signal territory protocol. This pattern of assigning blame to lower level functionaries repeats with each serious accident.

There are other issues which may or may not be routine and beg more attention. First, the information management and communication of Indian Railways. Even as facts about the accident were still emerging, the Chairperson of the Railway Board prematurely declared the container train crew's disregard of signals as the *prima facie* cause. She also stated that both crew members had died. While the former is proving to be only partially true, the latter was an insensitive and erroneous statement as the assistant loco pilot has survived.

When questioned about the slow rollout of Kavach, an indigenous signalling system that also prevents collisions, she cited limited capacity in the supporting industry as a main reason. If industrial capacity is lacking, it is the Indian Railway's responsibility to encourage and nurture the allied industry with meaningful assurances so they invest in capacity building. Notably, the Railways decided to adopt the Kavach system after extensive trials over 1,400 kilometres on the Southern Central Railway nearly three years ago, preferring it over the established European system, ETCS Level II. The project has been a work in progress since then. Such slow execution of a project indicates a lack of focus on safety works.

If the Indian Railways is still not confident of the system's efficacy or speed of implementation, why plan for its adoption? If that is indeed the case, there is no harm in installing ETCS Level II in some important sections while Kavach matures.

We have heard that Kavach is under implementation on the Delhi-Howrah and Delhi-Mumbai sections, but the target for completion has been missed. It is pertinent to refer to two recommendations from the CRS' report on the Vizianagaram train accident last year. The report emphasised the priority implementation of Kavach in Automatic Signalling territories, as they are prone to collisions, and suggested faster installation in locomotives and trains ahead of ground installations to increase the probability, if not guarantee, of preventing collisions. The Railways should fixate on the trunk routes and Automatic Signalling territories for faster installation of Kavach, aiming for 4,000 to 5,000 km/year, which is achievable. Why are differing views on the protocol to be followed by station masters and crews in the case of Automatic signal failure emerging? This issue was criticised by the CRS in the said report, highlighting badly drafted rules that lead to ambiguity about what to do in the case of Automatic signal failure.

Indian Railways, like many government entities, is overstaffed. However, there are some safety-critical categories where work is intensely continuous, such as loco crew, train manager, station master, pointsman and signal maintainer. Any vacancies in these categories mean stress and overwork for the existing staff. Carrying such vacancies to save some expenditure is self-defeating. Although there are nearly 20,000 vacancies for loco pilot/assistant loco pilot positions, Indian Railways issued a notice for recruiting only 5,658 heads earlier this year. When the issue was raised strongly after this accident, this was revised to 18,799 heads, clearly showing a cavalier handling of an important matter.

A big question is whether the accident was an aberration or if similar near misses are commonplace in the affected section. If the enquiry shows that such incidents were indeed frequent, it would point to a grave management failure. A related issue is the inaction in employing AI-enabled applications to improve safety post mortems and provide actionable alerts. Extensive digital data from station data loggers and microprocessors on locomotives and trains can be effectively managed by AI, filtering out the irregularities to precipitate the grave ones and projecting them regularly to the very top of railway management.

One hopes that the enquiry report will delve more into managerial issues this time, such that a clear path toward a safe, accident-free Indian Railways can be charted out.

Extensive digital data from station data loggers and microprocessors on locomotives and trains can be effectively managed by AI, filtering out the irregularities

Power dues remain unresolved

The power struggle between Telangana and A.P. has yielded no conclusive solution

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev
rajeev.madabhushi@thehindu.co.in

The protracted dispute over power dues between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has come to the fore yet again.

BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao raised the issue in his letter to the Judicial Commission headed by Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, which was formed to investigate alleged irregularities in Telangana's power purchase agreement with neighbouring Chhattisgarh. He recalled the power woes faced by Telangana during its formative years justifying his government's decision to enter into a power purchase agreement with Chhattisgarh to meet the requirements.

Mr. Rao stated that according to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Telangana was entitled to 53.89% and Andhra Pradesh to 46.11% of the power generated in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh, based on power consumption statistics from five years before bifurcation. The ratio was to be followed for 10 years, but the share allocated to Telangana was insufficient. While there was a shortfall of 2,700 MW, the situation worsened with Andhra Pradesh not supplying over 1,500 MW violating the provisions of the Reorganisation Act. There was a non-availability of 900 MW of power from gas-based stations. On the whole, there was a shortage of 5,000 MW power leading to a severe crisis in Telangana.

The crisis worsened when Andhra Pradesh took over the Sileru power unit and failed to supply the agreed power. Besides, Mr. Rao alleged that

Andhra Pradesh canceled power purchase agreements with private power generation companies to deny Telangana its share.

Continuing dispute

His letter comes against the backdrop of a continuing dispute between the two States over the dues payable by the other since the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh in June 2014. The Telangana government has been claiming that its power utilities should get around ₹17,828 crore from Andhra Pradesh utilities, while the neighbouring State asserts that Telangana owes ₹3,441.78 crore in principal and another ₹3,315 crore in late payment surcharges for power supplied post-bifurcation.

The issue was represented to the Union Home Ministry as well as in the Southern Zonal Council meetings by the two Telugu States even as the Telangana government presented papers in support of its contentions. It said that the total receivables from Andhra Pradesh power utilities was ₹17,420 crore while dues payable to Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation were to the tune of ₹4,887 crore leaving a balance of ₹12,532 crore receivable by Telangana.

The issue escalated when the Andhra Pradesh government lobbied the Union government, leading to the Union Power Ministry's intervention. The Ministry directed the Telangana government to pay ₹6,756 crore to Andhra Pradesh for the supply of power post-bifurcation and ordered that the payment should be made within 30 days from the issuance of the order.

The Union Power Ministry was in consultation with the Finance Ministry to give a direction to RBI so that the accounts of the Telangana government could be deducted from the amount that should be paid to the neighbouring State. The Union Minister drew flak from Telangana which claimed that the Union government had not ensured implementation of the assurances given in the Reorganisation Act, but had decided to intervene in power dues issue against the interests of Telangana. The Telangana government on its part, challenged the Union Ministry's decision in the High Court which in turn quashed its orders.

"In our opinion, it is eminently desirable that the dispute between them is resolved amicably, preferably through mediation," Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice N.V. Shravan Kumar said. Nearly a year after the judgment, the two States have yet to reach a consensus on power dues. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy who took over the reins in December has reaffirmed his commitment to resolving the long standing disputes. With Mr. Revanth Reddy, one time associate of TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu, inclined to resolve the disputes and a regime change in Andhra Pradesh where Mr. Naidu led TDP coalition taking over the reins after their victory in the polls, hopes are rekindled again over the scope for the two States to settle the issues in a mutually agreeable manner in the coming days.

India among a select few countries that have not conducted the Census

Sharing company with India are countries undergoing invasions, civil wars or economic crises

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

The last census conducted in India was in 2011 and the decennial counting measure has been postponed indefinitely since 2021. Census numbers play a vital role in identifying beneficiaries for a myriad welfare schemes which could include specific ones such as building schools for tribal children to the large Public Distribution System (PDS). The absence of the census is bound to have grave consequences.

The BJP-led government has repeatedly asserted, including in Parliament, that Census 2021 had to be postponed due to the pandemic. But India stands only among a select few countries that have not conducted the latest Census – 44 of 233 nations. Of the 189 (81%) that managed to conduct their latest rounds, 143 did so after March 2020, the period when COVID-19 started playing havoc across countries. India shares the dubious distinction of not conducting the census with conflict-ridden countries such as Ukraine (invaded by Russia), Yemen, Syria and Myanmar – impacted by civil wars, the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, the economic crisis-affected Sri Lanka besides several sub-Saharan African countries that have also undergone turmoil.

Chart 1 shows the year in which the census was last conducted in 233 countries. Among the ten most populous countries, India and Nigeria are the only two yet to conduct a census. China, the U.S. and Indonesia were able to conduct their latest census round in 2020. Pakistan, ranked fifth, conducted its census in March 2023.

Among BRICS nations (originally defined), only India has not conducted the census with others having done so during or after the pandemic – Brazil (August 2022), China (November 2020), South Africa (February 2022), Russia (October 2021). Among neighbours, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh have conducted censuses.

An excerpt from The Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, published in 2011, emphasises the need for a census. "... India is a welfare State. All these (welfare schemes) require information at the grassroots level... (Census) is the only source of primary data at village, town and ward level...".

Table 2 lists a selection of surveys that need census data to determine their samples and some schemes that require updated population figures to determine the number of beneficiaries. For instance, the consumption survey 2022-23, which collects data on the consumption of goods and services to understand expenditure patterns and standard of living, used the 2011 census for sampling. The National Family Health Survey 2019-21, which highlights districts where health services are inadequate, also depended upon the 2011 figures. Schemes such as the National Family Security Act, which identifies beneficiaries, who are entitled to receive subsidised food grains, are still being implemented using 2011 figures. Calculations by economists Jean Drèze, Reetika Khera and Meghana Mungikar estimate that at least 100 million people have been excluded from the scheme as coverage is still based on the 2011 census.

Even a relatively smaller scheme such as Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), which aims to provide quality education for ST children, will miss out on many areas. In 2022, every block with more than 50% of the ST population was targeted to have an EMRS school. As this calculation was done based on 2011, many blocks that fit the criteria in 2022 may have missed out. Similarly, blocks which fit the criteria earlier but did not in 2022, will get an EMRS school which they may not need now.

Counted in bad company

The data for the chart were sourced from the statistics division of the United Nations.
Data for the table was sourced from the respective survey reports, CAG audit reports and the NFSA website

Approximate count: Women walk in front of a 'population clock' showing India's estimated population, on World Population Day on July 11, last year, in Mumbai.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

Chart 1: The chart shows the year in which the latest census was conducted in 233 countries. Countries coloured ● are yet to conduct the latest census. Nations coloured ● did it before the pandemic, while those coloured ● did it during or after pandemic

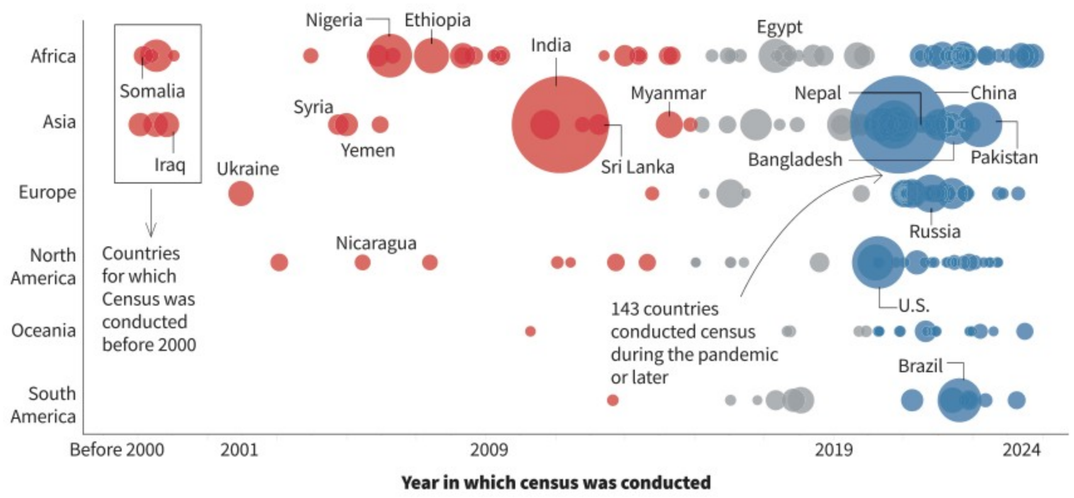


Table 2: Surveys that need census data to determine their samples and some schemes that require updated population figures

Name	Use of census
Consumption survey	The sampling frame for rural sector is the list of villages as per Census 2011
National Family Health Survey	The 2011 census served as the sampling frame for the selection of villages in rural areas
PLFS	List of 2011 population census villages constituted the rural sampling frame
Sample Registration System	The statistical report uses sample from Census 2011 frame
Household social consumption on education	The total number of sample first stage units (census villages in the rural sector and blocks in the urban sector) were allocated to the States and UTs in proportion to population as per Census 2011
Key Indicators of Social Consumption in India: Health	For the rural areas, the list of 2011 Census villages constituted the sampling frame
National Food Security Act	The Act covers nearly 2/3rd of the country's total population on the basis of estimates done using Census 2011 figures.75% of rural and 50% of urban population is entitled to receive highly subsidised foodgrains
National Social Assistance Programme	Central assistance to States and UTs under NSAP is determined on the basis of BPL population of the respective States/UTs. Estimated number of beneficiaries are calculated using population figures as per **Census 2001** and the poverty ratio determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission in 2004-05
Delimitation of constituencies	The Social Studies Division provides the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Census figures to the Election Commission for delimitation of constituencies and reservation of seats for the SCs and STs

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1974

Little support for Pak bid against India at Islamic meet

Kuala Lumpur, June 23: Since the beginning of the conference, Pakistan has been canvassing for a resolution that could cite the Indian explosion as a threat to the security of smaller countries in the sub-continent and of other non-nuclear nations.

But countries like Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Egypt opposed the move.

They considered that India could not be singled out. It was agreed that a discussion in general terms on all nuclear tests could be had on the agenda.

At the officials' meeting, Pakistan wanted the conference formally to call upon the five nuclear powers to give an assurance of security to non-nuclear nations around India.

Pakistan said that if all the five powers were not prepared to give a joint assurance, then individual nations should be approached.

The Pakistani delegation spokesman today denied a report that Pakistan sought to condemn India for the nuclear test. He also deplored "tendentious reporting" of the conference by some news agencies in regard to Pakistan's proposed item on strengthening the security of non-nuclear States. Neither the conference nor its committees had yet taken up Pakistan's proposed item for substantive consideration, he added.

Out of 30 delegates, only a few countries touched on the nuclear test.

Pakistan's Defence and Foreign Minister, Mr. Aziz Ahmed said Pakistan's concern over the Indian test did not arise merely on account of its own security or of regional disequilibrium.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1924

Rumours contradicted.

Bombay, June 24: The Board of Directors have learnt of the several unauthorised and unjustified rumours about the Tata Iron and Steel Company's position and about the intention of the Board to reduce the capital of the Company. The Board have this day completed arrangements for further finance in this Company, and with the co-operation of the shareholders and the investing public, the Board are confident that the necessity for reducing the capital of reconstructing the Company will not arise.

From Page One

CBI sends teams for NEET case probe

On Friday night, the Economic Offences Unit of the Bihar Police picked up six more people from Deoghar in Jharkhand for their involvement in the alleged paper leak. The police had earlier arrested 13 of the accused, including four examinees. They suspect that Sanjeev Mukhiya, a resident of Nalanda in Bihar, is the kingpin. He had earlier been arrested on the charge of leaking the paper for a constable recruitment exam conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission in 2016.

Another case of alleged cheating at a Godhra test centre, in which six people have been arrested, is currently being investigated by the Gujarat Police, but is likely to be taken over by the CBI.

'Institutional failure'

This year's NEET has been embroiled in several controversies. After students alleged irregularities in the rankings, the matter went to the Supreme Court which approved a re-test for over 1,500 students who had preciously been given "grace marks" to compensate for the time they lost while taking the test.

Opposition parties have targeted the Union government for its failure to conduct the entrance examinations properly, affecting lakhs of students.

Citing concerns about the integrity of competitive examinations, the Union government took a last-minute decision to postpone the NEET-PG examination scheduled for Sunday. Last week, the CBI registered a case against unknown persons following an Education Ministry complaint alleging that the integrity of the UGC-NET, also conducted by the NTA, may have also been compromised, based on inputs from the Home Ministry. The UGC-NET was also cancelled.

On Wednesday, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had acknowledged that the back-to-back paper leaks were an institutional failure of the NTA, whose chief has now been removed.

Police fear Manipur groups going for drones

"We have no reports of drones having been used in the ethnic battle between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people in Manipur, but their visibility is all across Manipur of late. How many are in operation and for what purpose is anybody's guess, though these could be used for surveillance for the time being," an Army officer below the rank of Brigadier said.

The foothills on the periphery of the Imphal Valley, almost at the centre of Manipur's map, are considered most vulnerable to drone attacks because the corrugated territory allows the flying gadgets to "peep and fire" from the top of mounds or trees.

Despite reports of extremists equipping themselves with weapons beyond the conventional guns and grenades, Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh pinned hopes on the Narendra Modi government to resolve the conflict in two to three months.

Oram to look into Great Nicobar clearances

The Great Nicobar Project involves developing a trans-shipment port, an international airport, township development, and a 450-MVA gas and solar-based power plant on the island. The project area is expected to cover over 130 sq. km. of pristine forest, and has been accorded environmental clearance – one of the mandatory pre-requisites – by an expert committee.

The government told Parliament in August 2023 that 9.6 lakh trees would likely be cut for it and 'compensatory afforestation' for the loss of this unique rainforest ecosystem had been planned, but in Haryana, thousands of kilometres away and in a vastly different ecological zone.

A total of 7.114 sq. km of tribal reserve forest land, where the Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group resides, is also expected to be used for this project with the government insisting that they will not be relocated because of this work.

Meanwhile, the NCST is in the middle of investigating a complaint from retired bureaucrat E.A.S. Sarma, a former Tribal Affairs Secretary to the Andhra Pradesh government, who alleged violations of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the forest clearance process for the project, for which the government had also not consulted the NCST as mandated by the Constitution.

On the large number of rejections of FRA claims by tribal communities and individuals across the country, for which the Supreme Court has already pulled up the Union government and States, Mr. Oram maintained that these rejections were a "case-to-case issue", depending on the State or U.T., and must be seen as such.

Latest available government data from FRA implementation reports as of February 2024, showed that a total of 50,26,801 FRA claims had been received, of which 34.9% had been rejected and 15.5% remain pending for disposal.

These FRA reports also showed that the Andaman and Nicobar administration has neither recognised nor granted ownership of any forest land across the U.T. to local tribespeople under FRA - a requisite step under the Forest Conservation Rules, 2017 - before Stage-I clearance, which was granted in October 2022.

Industry seeks rethink on Chinese FDI curbs and high import tariffs

Country's electronics sector heavily import-dependent for vital components; PLI scheme may no longer help, and the curbs have hurt component ecosystem development and sent out a message of 'non-friendly investment environment', says CII

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Indian industry has urged the government to revisit its restrictions on investment inflows and the movement of skilled personnel from China, and slash high import duties on electronics components as they have made Indian electronic goods globally uncompetitive vis-à-vis rivals such as Vietnam and China, rather than boosting localisation of critical inputs.

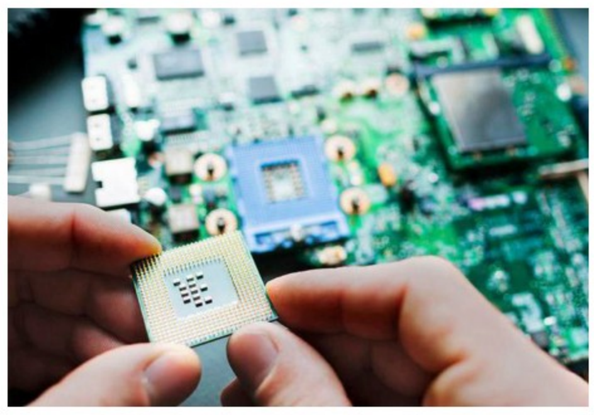
Warning that the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing, introduced in April 2020 to offset some cost disadvantages, may soon lose its effectiveness in the face of "tariff-induced cost", industry players have flagged that the 4%-6% fiscal support under PLI is "grossly inadequate to negate the overall disability as compared to China and Vietnam".

In a report on "Developing India as the Manufacturing Hub for Electronics Components and Sub-Assemblies", the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has outlined "critical actions required to transition India's electronics sector ecosystem from an 'import dependent assembly-led manufacturing' to 'component level value-added manufacturing'.

'Adequate guardrails'

On the restrictions imposed in 2020, through Press Note 3, on foreign direct investment (FDI) from countries sharing land borders with India, the report said the move aimed at preventing predatory acquisitions during the pandemic has now outlived its utility and must be reconsidered with "adequate guardrails".

"India should adopt a non-restrictive approach towards investments, component imports, openness towards technology transfer in deficient areas, ease of inward movement of skilled manpower and easing of non-trade tariffs," the report said, stressing these curbs have hurt India's component ecosystem development and sent out a message of "non-friendly investment environment".



India's import duties on electronic-related tariff lines range from zero to 27.5%, burdening manufacturing costs. GETTY IMAGES

In an interdependent world, no country can aspire to produce all components for domestic consumption and a right balance between imports and exports of higher value-added products is the recipe for long term industrial sustenance, the report argued. "The largest electronics manufacturer China with its $1.6 trillion international electronics trade relies on 42% imports," it pointed out.

"India's components demand is largely met through imports from China and short-term strategies are likely to have adverse impact on potential expansion of domestic manufacturing... The import tariffs on priority sub-assemblies and components need to be urgently rationalised in line with key competing economies. Majority of tariff lines need to be brought under the level of 5% or lower to ensure that product manufacturers become competitive," the report mooted.

India's import duties on 118 electronic-related tariff lines range from zero to 27.5%, with the largest number of components falling in the 10%-15% range, burdening manufacturing costs. About 47.2% of the electronic imports pass through under zero tariff, the remaining 52.8% imports are subjected to varying tariff levels but largely over 10%.

Militant killed close to LoC in Uri sector, says Army

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

One militant was killed in an ongoing anti-militancy operation in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Sunday.

"One terrorist has been killed in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation that was launched on Saturday in the Uri Sector. Operations are continuing," an Army spokesperson said on Sunday.

The Army established contact with a group of freshly infiltrated militants near the Line of Control in Baramulla district's Uri Sector on Saturday.

An official said the group of militants was spotted in the Bajrang-Uri sector. The group was engaged in a firefight in the anti-militancy operation, which was launched following "inputs about the presence of some infiltrating terrorists" in the area.

North Kashmir has seen three major anti-militancy operations since June 19, which left three militants dead.

Minor sent bomb threat 'just for fun' to Delhi airport

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The police on Sunday arrested a 13-year-old boy for sending a fake email threat to the Delhi airport on June 17, claiming that a bomb had been planted on a Dubai-bound flight.

The police said the email threat was sent by the Class 9 student "for fun" as he was influenced by news on social media platforms of children sending similar threat emails.

The boy said his parents had given him a mobile phone for studies, and he used it to send the email threats. After sending the threat, he deleted his account.

He did not alert his parents because he was scared, the police said.

Kejriwal moves SC against Delhi High Court's interim stay of his bail by trial court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urgently approached the Supreme Court on Sunday against the Delhi High Court's suspension of the bail granted to him by a trial court in the excise policy case.

Mr. Kejriwal's lawyers said the petition would be mentioned orally for early hearing on Monday before a Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court.

They have argued that the interim order is a violation of the fundamental right to personal liberty.

The interim order passed by the Delhi High Court was based on an appeal filed by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

Arvind Kejriwal

within a day of the trial court ordering the release of the Chief Minister, who was arrested on March 21.

The top court had earlier, on May 10, intervened to grant Mr. Kejriwal interim bail to campaign in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election. The Chief Minister, complying with the top court's direction, surrendered on June 2.

Reacting to Mr. Kejriwal moving the SC, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that just days ago, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had condemned the ED and the Central government for victimising Mr. Kejriwal as the Enforcement Directorate had moved the Delhi High Court against a Delhi court order granting bail to the CM, but he had now moved the SC.

"It's shocking to see that showing peak of hypocrisy, the AAP leaders who were condemning Enforcement Directorate for moving High Court against bail to Kejriwal without waiting for written order have today moved Supreme Court without even waiting for High Court's hearing to complete," he said.

Six held on charge of cheating Delhi man using 'courier ploy'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Six people have been arrested from across the country for allegedly duping a man of ₹2.5 lakh in a so-called FedEx scam, the police said here on Sunday.

The police froze the bank accounts used by the accused and seized ₹38.23 lakh.

With these arrests, the police said 72 complaints related to the scam reported on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) had been solved.

The accused have been identified as Ansh, Samarth, Pranjal Kumar Sahni, Satender Dhaka, Vedant Prabhkar Nagarkar, and Vishal Joshi. They are graduates in the 23-30 age group.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Apoorva Gupta said the police had received a complaint from a resident of Vasundhara Enclave on April 29 that he had received a call from an unknown number, and the caller identified himself as employee of the Mumbai branch of an international courier company.

The caller had said that a parcel was booked using the complainant's Aadhaar card and phone number, and it contained his passport, bank cards, clothes, a laptop, cash, and drugs. The accused transferred the call to what he called the "Mumbai cyber cell", and under the pretext of saving the complainant from being party in a criminal case, he cheated him of ₹2.49 lakh.

India may be returning Israel a favour with supply of weapons, says ex-envoy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Former Israeli Ambassador to India Daniel Carmon, speaking with the leading Israeli publication *Ynetnews*, has said that India might be supplying weapons to Israel as a sign of gratitude for Israeli assistance during the Kargil war of 1999. The seasoned diplomat's comments came against the backdrop of speculation that India has supplied drones and artillery shells to Israel as the latter ran short of the items with its war against the Hamas continuing for more than eight months.

"The Indians always remind us that Israel was there for them during the Kargil war. Israel was one of the few countries that stood by them and provided them with weapons. The Indians don't forget this and might now be returning the favour," Mr. Carmon said in his remarks to the *Ynetnews*.

Daniel Carmon

The *Ynetnews* report recounted that in May, Spain had prevented the cargo vessel *Marianne Danica* from docking at the port of Cartagena as it was sailing to a port in Israel carrying 27 tonnes of munitions meant for the Israel Defence Forces.

"The incident highlights the fact that India has been providing significant military assistance to Israel since October 7," the news outlet said.

It had earlier come to light in February that New Delhi was supplying Israel with advanced Hermes 900 drones manufactured in Hyderabad. The Hyderabad factory was set up to cater to the requirements of the Indian military forces, but it had to rush 20 units of them to Israel, which faced a shortfall during its war with the Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and with the Hezbollah in Israel's northern border with Lebanon.

The Hyderabad factory is a joint venture between Israel's Elbit Systems and Indian industrialist Gautam Adani's Adani Group.

The *Ynetnews.com* report has been picked up by Arab media, and the Iranian news agency *IRNA*, which has reported, "Zionist media reveals India has provided the Israeli regime with large hauls of weaponry".

India has neither confirmed nor denied supplying weapons to Israel so far, maintaining that it wishes a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Gaza. India has sought an end to the fighting, and supports the creation of a Palestinian state to ensure a permanent solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

After years, Russia approves draft logistics agreement to be signed with India

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

After being held up for several years, the India-Russia mutual logistics agreement is ready for conclusion, with Russia approving the draft agreement over the past week.

The agreement will simplify military-to-military exchanges for exercises, training, port calls and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) efforts. It is similar to a series of such agreements that India has signed with a number of countries, beginning with the U.S. in 2016.

An official order dated June 20 was published on Russia's official legal information website, authorising the signing of the logistics agreement with India. The draft of the agreement was also published. "It's a Russian governmental decree that approves signing the agreement and makes relevant instruction to the MoD [Ministry of Defence]," a diplomatic source said, commenting on the order. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has instructed the MoD to hold negotiations with the Indian side on the draft document, sources said.

The agreement involves interaction between troops, and supply of weapons and military gear

Delayed agreement

The conclusion of the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) has been delayed for several years. Official sources said that this was the same agreement which has now been approved by the Russian side, and has to be signed by both sides before it can become effective. The agreement, as and when concluded, will be valid for five years and will be renewed automatically unless either party notifies the other of its desire to terminate it, sources said.

Defence cooperation is a major pillar of the India-Russia strategic partnership and is guided by the agreement on military technical cooperation. The agreement for the decade from 2021 to 2031 was signed during the inaugural meeting of India-Russia 2+2 dialogue held in December 2021.

The cooperation agreement involves interaction between troops, and also addresses issues of the supply and development of weapons and military equipment, the Russian Ministry of Defence explained.

A Navy-to-Navy cooperation agreement along the same lines has also been in the works for some time.

Among the three services, the Indian Navy has been the biggest beneficiary of these administrative arrangements signed with several countries, improving its operational turnaround and increasing interoperability on the high seas. The agreements have been a win-win for both the parties involved.

‘Status report of probe in NEET paper leak case sent to Centre’

So far, 18 people have been arrested in the case, including 13 from Patna and five from Jharkhand; searches are continuing, evidence has been sent to the Central Forensic Laboratory in Delhi, says official of the Bihar Economic Offences Unit

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Voicing concerns: Students holding placards as they stage a protest against NEET-UG re-examination, in Rajkot on Sunday. ANI

Multiple players are involved in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test paper leak case, and evidence collected in the course of investigation is being examined, a highly placed source in the Bihar Police’s Economic Offences Unit (EOU) told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The official confirmed that a status report on the investigation was sent to the Union Education Ministry on Saturday.

Evidence has been sent to the Central Forensic Laboratory in Delhi and EOU teams are searching places linked to the case. The team had visited neighbouring Jharkhand and picked up six persons from Deoghar on Friday.

So far, 18 people have been arrested in the case, including 13 from Patna and five from Jharkhand. One person, Kaju, alias Prashant Kumar, has not been shown on the list of arrested persons yet.

“Though we received the details from the National Testing Agency [NTA] late, we have conducted the follow-up investigation. Our team went to a few places in Jharkhand, including Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Deoghar. We got so much information, a lot of things were seized and many statements recorded under Section 161 of the CrPC. At present, the investigation is at a very sensitive stage,” the source said.

The official also said that many aspects are being looked into, and teams are scouring places of suspects for corroborative evidence.

Asked about the report submitted to the Education Ministry, the official said, “It’s only a status report of the investigation with no other material... just bare facts. At present, it is not possible to share details because it may jeopardise the investigation.”

The role of Nalanda resident Sanjeev Mukhiya, who had been arrested in earlier paper leak cases, is under the scanner. “Mukhiya is part of an organised crime syndicate and there are multiple players involved in it. So, calling him the kingpin is premature but he also had some role because he had already been involved in the earlier paper leak cases. He had a role and we have leads in that direction,” the official said.

The six people brought from Deoghar were produced before the Special Court before being sent to judicial custody.

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team probing the UGC-NET paper leak case was attacked by villagers in Nawada district of Bihar on Saturday. The Nawada Police on Sunday said four people were arrested. “Around 4.30 p.m. on June 22, Rajauli police station received information that a CBI team was gheraoed at Kasiyadih village and was manhandled. A police team rushed to the spot and escorted the team. Four persons were arrested,” the official statement said.

Superintendent of Police Ambrish Rahul said the villagers mistook the CBI team for impersonators and manhandled them.

750 of 1,563 candidates skip NEET re-test held in four States, Chandigarh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a turmoil: Nearly 24 lakh candidates had taken NEET across the country on May 5. FILE PHOTO

Of the 1,563 candidates eligible to appear for the re-test of the undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG), only 813 (approximately 52%) took it on Sunday. Another 750 candidates (approximately 48%) remained absent. The three-and-a-half-hour exam was conducted across seven centres in the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, and Meghalaya, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The 1,563 candidates eligible to appear for the re-test directed by the Supreme Court had been given the opportunity after the top court scrapped their grace marks. At least 67 candidates had obtained 720/720, after grace marks were doled out by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in a non-transparent manner earlier this month.

The highest number of students eligible for the re-test were from two centres in Chhattisgarh. Of them, 417 candidates were from the Swami Atmanand Utkrist Hindi Medium Government Girls High School in Dantewada, where 176 candidates appeared for the re-test; and 185 were from the DAV Ispat Senior Secondary Public School, Balod, of whom 115 appeared for the re-test.

Similarly, from Haryana, 312 eligible candidates were allotted the DAV Police Public School in Jhajjar as the centre, of whom 178 candidates appeared for the re-test, and of the 182 eligible candidates from the Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jhajjar, 109 candidates appeared.

In Meghalaya, 464 candidates were eligible at the Don Bosco College in Tura, of whom 234 candidates took the exam.

In Gujarat, one candidate sat for the re-test in the Mount Litera Zee School at Surat, and in Chandigarh, there were only two eligible candidates, both of whom remained absent.

According to the Supreme Court’s order, the original score minus the grace marks would be considered for students who skip the exam. The revised scores would be considered for those who appeared.

ED duty-bound to investigate NEET question paper leak: petitioners in Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Students who have approached the Supreme Court against the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) have filed an application saying that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is “duty-bound to take cognisance of, investigate and secure punishment” to the accused persons behind the question paper leaks.

The application, filed by Shivangi Mishra, represented by advocates Mathews Nedumpara and Usha Nandini, has also urged the Supreme Court to implead the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED in the case.

The petitioners said investigation into the “scam” should proceed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and the Information Technology Act, 2000.

“The Enforcement Directorate is duty-bound to take cognisance of, investigate and secure punishment. The NEET Exam, which now has undoubtedly been exposed to be a scam, has its tentacles in different parts of the country... Until and unless the Enforcement Directorate takes cognisance of the matter or the Supreme Court directs the Enforcement Directorate to take action, the accused will not be brought under the stringent provisions of the PMLA,” the application noted.

The plea has been filed in the court even as the Centre said the NEET case had been transferred to the CBI on Saturday. The petitioners have also called for the cancellation of the entire test.

“The consequence arising out of the question paper leak which the Patna Police has now unearthed leaves the authorities with no option than to cancel the entire examination and conduct it afresh in the most foolproof manner,” the application said.

The court has scheduled the next hearing for July 8.

Education Minister likely to make a statement on NTA issue in Parliament

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Dharmendra Pradhan

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is likely to make a statement in Parliament during the special session beginning on Monday, on the issue of recent irregularities related to the tests conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), government sources said on Sunday.

A seven-member committee of experts has already been set up by the government to examine the matter and make recommendations on the structure and functioning of the NTA in order to bring in reforms in the mechanisms of the examination process and improve data security protocols.

The suggestions are expected to be implemented ahead of the next cycle of examinations, they said.

Stating that safeguarding students’ interests was a top priority for the government, a senior official said the Education Ministry took a series of actions after the irregularities were detected.

‘Panel set up’

“The credibility of NTA was called into question with respect to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) primarily because of the manner in which grace marks were given to 1,563 candidates to compensate for the time they had lost during the examination, though there was no such provision. Corrective steps have been taken, the NTA Director-General has also been removed. To address the larger aspects, an expert committee has been constituted and it will give its recommendations in two months,” the official said. The panel is expected to meet on Monday, said a high-level source from the IIT-Madras.

Stressing that the alleged NEET (UG) paper leak was a localised issue, another official pointed out that about one lakh successful candidates were from about 4,500 of the 4,750 examination centres. “As part of the punitive measure, 17 show-cause notices for debarring students have been given in Bihar, 30 in Gujarat and 63 in other parts of the country for various reasons,” the official said.

“Demands were also being made for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry, which has been recommended. The CBI has registered a case and will conduct a comprehensive investigation by also taking over the cases in Gujarat (Godhra) and Bihar (Patna). It will also look into the role of public servants, if any, connected with the conduct of the examination,” the official said.

The government has also notified the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, and will soon come up with “stringent” rules to prevent unfair practices. “In January, a detailed guideline for coaching centres had been issued. Further steps may be taken to check malpractice, if any,” the official said.

IMA welcomes CBI probe into entrance test irregularities

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Sunday welcomed the government’s decision to transfer the probe into alleged irregularities in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) [NEET-UG] to the CBI.

The association also expressed its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other key Ministers for their prompt response to concerns surrounding the controversies over the exam.

“We extend our gratitude to the Union Ministry of Education for transferring the investigation of the ‘irregularities’ in NEET-UG to the CBI for a thorough probe,” it said.

The IMA said it is thankful to the government for removing the National Testing Agency’s Director-General.

The IMA also urged the government to take swift action to ensure that counselling for admission in medical, dental, and other courses begins on time.

Kharge calls meeting of Congress MPs-elect before Parliament session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gearing up: The President’s Bodyguard taking part in a rehearsal ahead of President Droupadi Murmu’s address in Parliament. ANI

The MPs of Opposition parties are likely to enter the Lok Sabha on Monday with a copy of the pocket-sized Constitution to take oath after assembling at the Mahatma Gandhi statue inside Parliament complex.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on Monday. The session will see oath-taking by newly elected members followed by election of the Lok Sabha Speaker on Wednesday and President Droupadi Murmu’s address to the joint sitting of both the Houses on Thursday.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, convened a meeting of all the party’s MPs-elect, including party leader Rahul Gandhi, at the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) office, a senior leader said on Sunday.

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc and the Congress will also have to decide its strategy for the Speaker’s election. On Monday, *pro tem* Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab will announce the schedule by which the nomination process has to be completed.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has a comfortable majority to elect a Speaker of its choice. The office of the Speaker has not seen a contest in the recent past. The convention has been to arrive at a choice by consensus as the Lok Sabha Speaker is meant to be above partisan politics.

Opposition’s charge

However, a section of Opposition leaders argue that the Narendra Modi government has not followed convention, either in giving the Deputy Speaker’s post to the Opposition or making the senior-most MP, Kodikunnil Suresh of the Congress, the *pro tem* Speaker.

“Kodikunnil Suresh of the INC, who is in his 8th term, should have been Speaker *Pro tem*. But Bhartruhari Mahtab of the BJP has been appointed on the flimsy grounds that he has greater claim because this is his 7th consecutive term,” the Congress’s Jairam Ramesh said in a post on social media platform X. “If this argument is adopted, then why has Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi, a BJP MP who is also in his 7th consecutive term, not been considered? Is it because he is a Dalit like Suresh?” he asked.

On Monday, President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath to Mahtab as the *pro tem* Speaker at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. *(With PTI inputs)*

Mayawati reinstates Akash Anand

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

BSP chief Mayawati declared nephew Akash Anand as her successor and appointed him the party’s national coordinator on Sunday, reversing her previous decision.

“The BSP national president Mayawati *Ji* has once again given Akash Anand a chance to work in the party with full maturity. That is, he will remain Mayawati’s only successor along with being the party’s national coordinator,” read a statement released by the parry after a meeting of national office-bearers to review the Lok Sabha election results.

Ms. Mayawati expressed hope in Mr. Anand emerging as a mature leader in the interest of the BSP and the Bahujan movement.

After declaring Mr. Anand as her political heir in December 2023, the BSP chief, in the middle of campaigning, removed him from the post of party’s national coordinator. She had said that he needed to “reach maturity” before assuming such key roles.

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KIIDC, a Government of Kerala PSU invites offers through two cover e-Tender system from eligible bidders for
1. DESILTATION OF ARUVIKKARA DAM RESERVOIR ON TURN-KEY METHOD. Tender Id: 2024_KIIDC_661941_2.
2. General Civil works of CONSTRUCTION OF MUSICAL DANCING FOUNTAIN WITH MULTIMEDIA SHOW IN VAZHANI DAM at Thrissur District. Tender Id: 2024_KIIDC_670835_2. Details are available in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kiidc.kerala.gov.in
Managing Director

Row over welcoming Haj pilgrims in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The National Conference on Sunday objected to the J&K Lieutenant-Governor Administration’s move to change the protocol and send a Deputy Commissioner-level officer to receive Haj pilgrims at the Srinagar airport in J&K.

An NC spokesperson said there was a precedent that the head of State, specifically the Chief Minister, along with his Ministers, has always welcomed the first batch of Hajis at the airport and greeted them upon their return.

“This change... deeply hurts the sentiments of many,” he said.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor
Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/TA/530/2024-25 Date: 21.06.2024

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB, invites Expression of Interest for Providing Consulting Services for detailed engineering, tendering supervision and monitoring to implement **Karnataka Multi Sector Disaster and Climate Resilience Project (KMSDCRP)** of BWSSB.

For above work will be available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **24.06.2024 to 08.07.2024 by 16.00 Hrs.** The submitted EOI’s will be opened on **09.07.2024 after 17.00 Hrs.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

DIPR/CP/BCPL/506/2024-25

INBRIEF

Cloudburst in Itanagar causes landslips, flood-like situation

A cloudburst on Sunday morning triggered landslips and a flood-like situation in Itanagar. Though Arunachal Pradesh has been witnessing heavy rain over the past few weeks, the situation had improved in the past two days. Following the cloudburst around 10.30 a.m., landslips were reported from various parts of Itanagar and its adjoining areas, while a flood-like situation occurred in several stretches of National Highway 415. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting in New Delhi for flood preparedness ahead of monsoon. He instructed departments concerned to study the recent floods in Sikkim and Manipur and file a report.

Two CoBRA personnel killed in bomb blast in Chhattisgarh

Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force's jungle warfare unit (CoBRA) were killed after Naxalites blew up a truck with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday, the police said. Constable Shailendra, 29, and vehicle driver R. Vishnu, 35, were killed in the blast that took place around 3 p.m. near Timmapuram village between Silger and Tekalgudem camps of the security forces. PTI

Pushpak, ISRO's reusable launch vehicle, clears test

This was the third and final test of a series; the mission demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of the vehicle under more challenging release conditions, says the space agency

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully completed the third reusable launch vehicle landing experiment (RLV LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka on Sunday.

The third and final test in a series was conducted at 7.10 a.m.

"Following the success of RLV LEX-01 and LEX-02 missions, RLV LEX-03 re-demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of the RLV under more challenging release conditions and more severe wind conditions," the ISRO said.

On Sunday morning, Pushpak, the space agency's winged vehicle, was released from an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter at an altitude of 4.5 km.

The ISRO said that from the release point 4.5 km away, Pushpak autonomously executed cross-range correction manoeuvres, approached the runway, and performed a precise horizontal landing at the runway centre line.

Textbook touchdown: Pushpak performed a 'precise horizontal landing at runway centre line', the ISRO says. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Due to this vehicle's low lift-to-drag ratio aerodynamic configuration, the landing velocity exceeded 320 kmph, compared with 260 kmph for a commercial aircraft and 280 kmph for a typical fighter aircraft. After touchdown, the vehicle velocity was reduced to nearly 100 kmph using its brake parachute, after which the landing gear brakes were employed for deceleration. During this ground roll phase, Pushpak utilises its rudder and nose-wheel steering system to autonomously maintain a stable and precise ground roll along the runway," it said.

The space agency said this mission simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space, reaffirming its expertise in acquiring the most critical technologies required for the development of an RLV.

"Through this mission, the advanced guidance algorithm catering to longitudinal and lateral plane error corrections, which is essential for the future Orbital Re-entry Mission has been validated," it said.

The ISRO said that the LEX used sensors such as an inertial sensor, radar altimeter, flush air data system and NavIC. Notably, the LEX-03 mission reused the winged body and flight systems from the LEX-02 mission without any modification, demonstrating the robustness of the ISRO's capability of design to reuse flight systems.

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath congratulated the team for its efforts in maintaining the success streak in such missions. S. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, emphasised that this "consistent success boosts ISRO's confidence in the critical technologies essential for future orbital re-entry missions".

Advisory on organ transplantation may be put up at airports

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

With more number of foreigners visiting India to undergo organ transplantation, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has issued an advisory to sensitise international patients to the organ transplant protocol and legal framework in the country.

In a note to the Home Ministry, Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said India had emerged as one of the leading destinations for foreign nationals to undergo organ transplantation due to the availability of world-class facilities and highly skilled medical personnel.

It was essential for these foreign nationals to understand the specific guidelines and legal requirements that regulate the process of organ transplantation in India. To sensitise them on medical visa for organ transplantation and address queries regarding rules pertaining to the surgery, the Health Ministry had prepared a set of protocols and guidelines to be published on websites of the Bureau of Immigration of the Home Ministry.

The Health Secretary also wrote to the External Affairs Ministry to circulate and publish the guidelines at prominent places in airports to create awareness among foreigners visiting the country for organ transplantation. Some of the basic requisites were that treatment of diseases which required organ transplant would be permitted only on a medical visa and all living donors should be of the age 18 or above.

Guidelines

Going by provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, and other Rules, no Indian donor is permitted to donate his organ or organs to a foreigner unless they are a near relative of the recipient. A near relative could be a spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandson or granddaughter.

A senior official of the embassy of the country of origin in India is required to certify the relationship between the donor and the recipient.

Censor board thwarts *Monkey Man* release even after global cuts

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Dev Patel-directed revenge drama *Monkey Man*, set in a dystopian version of India, is yet to be seen in the country because the Central Board of Film Certification has thwarted its release without formally banning it, by simply not scheduling a screening of the film for its advisory panel, according to a source.

This is despite the fact that Universal Studios has already made changes from its original cut of the film, clipping scenes that sharply emphasised the nexus between religion and politics. The version of the film that was released globally in theatres on April 5, and on streaming platforms recently, does not include these scenes. Apart from the cut scenes, Universal Studios also changed the colour of political banners in the film from saffron to red.

A promotional still of the film featuring Dev Patel.

Universal Pictures had scheduled the film for a theatrical release in India on April 19, but it has still not been released officially. According to a source with direct knowledge of the film's journey through the censorship process, this is because the CBFC, which is in the position to either ban or approve the movie, has simply avoided scheduling a screening of *Monkey Man* for its Examining Committee.

The Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, notified in March, and its preceding 1983 version, both lay out a five-day deadline for a film to be referred to the Examining Committee, which watches films before taking decisions on what changes should be made, if any. That deadline passed in May.

The CBFC declined to reveal any details of the film's examination in response to a Right to Information request by *The Hindu*. The CBFC's Chief Executive Officer, Smita Vats Sharma, upheld its transparency officer's decision to withhold these details under the Right to Information Act. Warner Bros Pictures India, which distributes Universal Pictures movies in the country, declined to comment.

New research heralds breast cancer diagnosis with just a drop of blood

V. Geetanath
HYDERABAD

Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) here, in association with clinicians of the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) in Thiruvananthapuram, have identified a potentially cost-effective and non-invasive method to detect various kinds of breast cancer from just a drop of blood.

The researchers have analysed microRNA (miRNAs) signatures in hundreds of human cancer samples and identified 439 of them associated with invasive breast cancer, of which 107 qualified to be potential biomarkers for the stratification of different types, grades and stages of invasive ductal carcinoma, said CCMB Chief Scientist Lekha Dinesh Kumar, who led the research.

Most of the cellular processes in a body are regulated by miRNA molecules which are 23-25 base small non-coding RNA molecules. Identification of miRNAs involved in the regulation of the initiation and progression of breast cancer holds great promise for the development of molecular tools for early diagnosis and prognosis, Dr. Lekha said.

Screening test: Scientists have identified a potentially cost-effective, non-invasive method to detect breast cancer. V. RAJU

The scientist explained that cancer cells shed DNA/RNA into the circulation called 'circulating nucleic acids (CNAs) and tumour-specific genetic changes, including DNA, RNA, and proteins, which are detectable in plasma or other body fluids of cancer patients to identify the earlier stages of cancer development.

Based on this principle, the identified biomarkers could be made into a liquid biopsy system that might prove to be a boon for developing countries, as cancer could be detected from one drop of blood.

Cost-effective method

"Our study has paved the way for the application of miRNAs as biomarkers and would open up new vistas in developing a refined, cost-effective, and non-invasive method in breast cancer diagnosis," she said.

Affordable, quick and robust early detection protocols for breast cancer diagnosis using miRNAs could strengthen the healthcare system majorly because breast cancer is a "hidden epidemic in Third World countries, with most rural women in India and elsewhere reluctant to go for a physical examination," Dr. Lekha said.

The discovery of biomarkers has become essential for early detection, classification, and monitoring of cancer. It holds the key for the cure of this scourge and reduces the economic burden of the family in particular and society in general, she added.

Nine international patents have already been granted for these biomarkers as a testimony to the application of results of this study, which got published recently in the journal *Cell Communication and Signalling*.

Student held for alleged terror links in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Special Task Force (STF) of the West Bengal Police has arrested a second-year computer science student from Panagarh in Purba Bardhaman district of the the State, for his alleged links to a Bangladesh-based terror outfit.

The accused was produced before a district court on Sunday and remanded in police custody for 14 days.

"Today, STF West Bengal has arrested Md Habibullah from his residence. It has been learnt that the members of the group mostly communicate through a cryptic messaging platform," an STF official said after the arrest on Saturday.

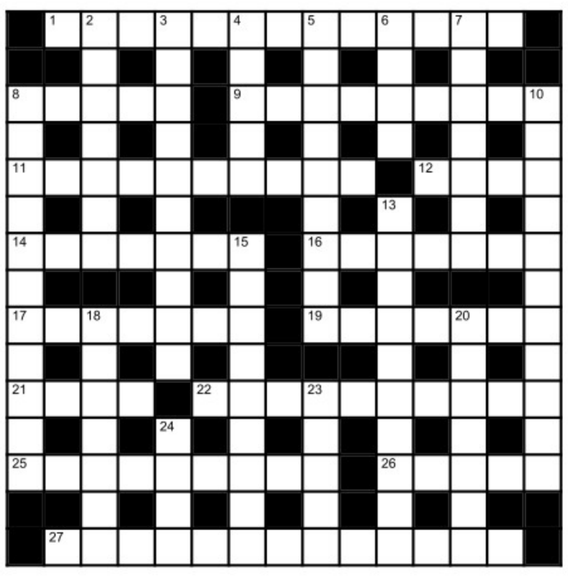
The police said the accused has links to a new terror module named 'Shahadat', which is also operating in Bangladesh. Charges have been brought under the UAPA.

TH CROSSWORD + 14209

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Moment of greatest stress, close to numb with doctor operating to save family (8,5)
8 Suspicion is strong after spouse almost catches husband (5)
9 Most ferocious leader of bandits perishes in raid (9)
11 Most important reason for jockey getting tired? (10)
12 Ignoring Trump's latest ego trip (4)
14 Fling during intermission? It will brighten things up (3,4)
16 Old doggy leaping to tackle thugs at centre is a hero (4,3)
17 Formal ritual performed after end of toast (7)
19 Whirlwind starting to twirl violently on road (7)
21 Detailed chronicle about invasion (4)
22 A, say, good lady dancing with retired men in retro bar (5,5)
25 One left fumbling in darkness? This will provide illumination (4,5)
26 Former South African cricketer hit a fantastic sixer finally (5)
27 Mark led maiden astray? That's cheap (6-3-4)

Down

2 They destroy crooked insurer (7)
3 Warm clothes or dresses, primarily inexpensive (10)
4 Start to inspect garden containing money plant (5)
5 Sentimental drivel by director, mushy thing that's said before retiring (4,5)
6 Brought back LSD, dope, taking chances (4)
7 Demanding information about arresting journalist at home (7)
8 Tungsten, crude tin or another malleable metal (7,4)
10 Spooner picked up two hats for youngster following latest trends (5-6)
13 Grooved with my date, twirling over carpet (10)
15 Knock back drink with girl, one serving person at the bar (9)
18 Expedition discovered oil in African capital (7)
20 Sound of clearing throat after consuming drug in a line (7)
23 Son lost temper frequently (5)
24 Criticism of skirt? Ignoring puritan ultimately (4)

SUDOKU

		4	2			6		9
	9		4					
		7		6	1			
	3		5			4		
8	4						1	6
		6			8		9	
			6	7		1		
					5		4	
3		5			4	9		

No.SS6199 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	O	R	E	B	O	D	E	■	C	L	O	C	H	E
O	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	P	■	A	■	O	■	N
S	A	R	C	O	M	A	■	R	E	T	I	N	U	E
S	■	E	■	T	■	D	■	I	■	T	■	F	■	R
I	N	L	A	Y	■	T	I	N	K	E	R	I	N	G
L	■	Y	■	C	■	O	■	C	■	■	■	R	■	I
■	■	■	F	A	N	T	H	E	F	L	A	M	E	S
D	■	T	■	L	■	H	■	C	■	A	■	S	■	E
A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S	H	E	E	L	■	■	■
M	■	E	■	■	■	W	■	A	■	V	■	O	■	E
P	A	R	T	Y	G	O	E	R	■	U	N	F	I	X
E	■	E	■	U	■	R	■	M	■	L	■	N	■	T
N	U	M	E	R	A	L	■	I	S	O	T	O	P	E
E	■	I	■	T	■	D	■	N	■	S	■	T	■	N
D	A	N	I	S	H	■	A	G	U	E	W	E	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	3	1	4	2	9	8	7
2	4	7	3	9	8	5	1	6
9	1	8	6	7	5	2	3	4
5	7	9	4	2	1	3	6	8
3	2	1	7	8	6	4	9	5
8	6	4	9	5	3	7	2	1
7	3	2	8	1	4	6	5	9
4	8	5	2	6	9	1	7	3
1	9	6	5	3	7	8	4	2

FAITH

Beyond definition

In his Kandar Anubhuti, Arunagirinatha wonders if Murugan is the sky, earth, fire, water or air? Or is He more than these five elements? Can we say He is the embodiment of the Vedas? But the Vedas themselves seek Him. Is Murugan the mind? He is unaffected by the three *malams* that Saiva Siddhanta describes. Murugan cannot be restricted by any definition, said So.So. Meenakshisundaram, in a discourse.

The questions that Arunagirinatha asks in Kandar Anubhuti are similar to ideas that he expresses in an earlier work, Kandar Alankaram. Murugan is not *sareeri* (one with a body) or *asareeri* (one without a body).

Through the questions, Arunagirinatha is, in fact, explaining his own spiritual experience. In the course of his spiritual quest, he must have asked himself all these questions, and must have got the answers through Murugan's grace. Attachment to his family and attachment to material possessions are fetters that keep him from reaching Murugan's feet. Was Murugan not the one who killed Soorapadman with His *vel* (spear)? Was He not the God who destroyed the Krauncha mountain? Arunagirinatha asks Murugan if it is fair to let him perish.

'*Thagumo* [is it fair]' Arunagirinatha asks twice, to emphasise the need for help from Murugan.

Health claims without tears!

COVERNOTE

In motor policies, such a no-claim bonus is passed on as a discount in the renewal premium. Now, this option is to be made available under health policies also

K. Nitya Kalyani

In the previous instalment of CoverNote we saw some changes imposed by the insurance regulator relating to Health insurance. This was done through a consolidation of circulars on the matter into a Master Circular dated 29 May, 2024. Most provisions/ changes come into effect immediately and some have specified target dates for implementation.

One was ensuring coverage during grace period for renewal of hospitalisation policies (usually annual, but there are multi-year polices as well), and another was timely authorisation/ approval of cashless claims at the time of hospital admission,the insurer being responsible for financial implications of delays in this and also immediate approval of payment on discharge intimation.

The circular also lays down that if the policyholder should die during the treatment, the insurer 'shall immediately process the claim and get the mortal remains of the deceased released from the hospital immediately.'

Here are some more moves.

When you renew a health policy and haven't made any claim in the previous policy period, you are rewarded with an enhancement of the sum insured without additional premium. In motor policies, such a no-claim bonus is passed on as a discount in the renewal premium. Now this option is to be made available under health policies also and it is up to the insured to choose between the two.

A common doubt when making claims under a health policy is how does one claim under multiple policies. Many have coverage under group policies from the employer. In addition, they may be part of a group policy of some service provider, usually a bank or credit card issuer, or groups like professional bodies, alumni, retirees and so on. And of course they may have bought individual health policies as well.

The master circular, while repeating that the policyholder can choose to claim under any policy, adds that the "insurer of that chosen policy shall be treated as the primary Insurer."

Insurers' duty

This means that if the claim exceeds the coverage under that policy, it is now the duty of the insurer to seek information about other policies with the policyholder and coordinate with those insurers to settle the balance amount, "without causing any hassles to the policyholder". This is as far as indemnity policies go which pay claims against expenses incurred.

In the case of benefit policies, where a flat sum insured is payable on the occurrence of a specified contingency, let us say on diagnosis of cancer, the policyholder can claim from all the insurers under all the policies he may have.

Moreover, this claim can be over and above the claims on indemnity policies since both policies operate on totally different bases.

The only thing that gives pause is that insurance companies apparently are approaching the regulator about some requirements in this circular. Hopefully this does not lead to any roll-backs or dilutions because there is still a long way to go!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

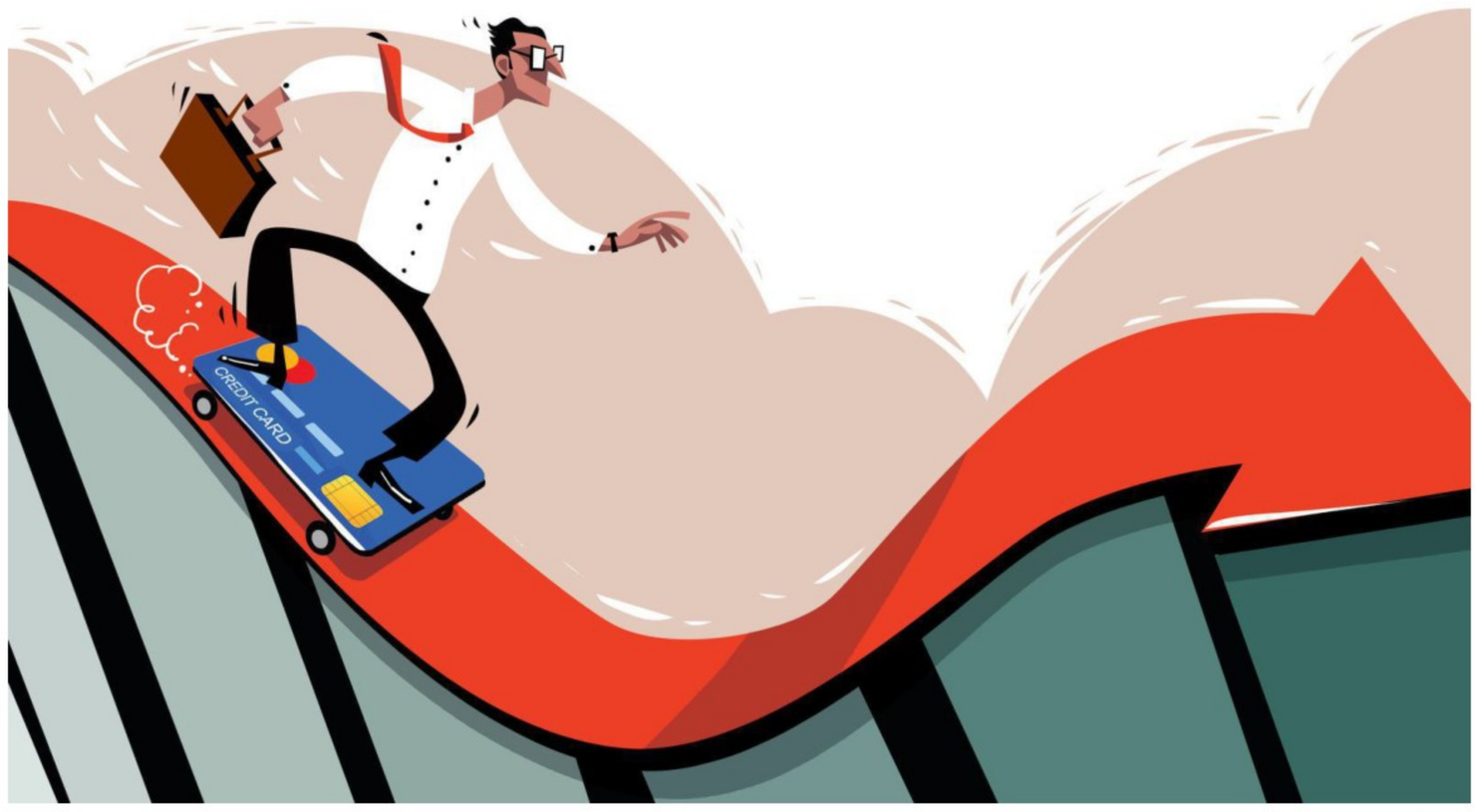


ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

How credit card helps you to build credit score

While loans are need-based and carry high interest charges, credit cards can help you build a strong credit profile without any hefty charges and save on spends in the form of reward points

PLASTIC MONEY

Radhika Binani

Starting to build your credit score early is a sign of financial prudence. The sooner you begin your credit journey, the easier it will be to build a strong credit profile. This will play a major role when you later set out to achieve bigger life goals like buying your dream home or a luxury car.

To build a strong credit profile, you must have experience in handling credit in the form of a loan or a credit card in a responsible manner. While loans are need-based and carry high interest charges, credit cards can help you build a strong credit profile without incurring any hefty charges. Even those who have just begun their professional journey can avail an entry-level credit card and give an early start to their credit journey. At the same time, credit cards can help you save on your spends in the form of reward points, cashback, discount or additional benefits.

Since credit score is largely dependent on your bill payments, credit history and credit utilisation ratio (CUR), let us see how credit cards help you in these areas.

> Consumers not eligible for an entry-level unsecured credit card can consider applying for a secured credit card issued against an FD

Manage responsibly

While calculating your credit score, credit bureaus give the highest weightage to bill payments. When you clear your credit card dues on or before the due date every month, it is recorded in your credit report and shows that you are using your credit in a disciplined manner. Missed or delayed payments are shown in the 'Days Past Due' section of your credit report.

For each month where you pay the dues on time, the DPD section will show the number zero indicating that the payment was made timely. With no missed or delayed payments for several consecutive months, your credit score gradually improves.

Timely bill payment not only contributes towards building a strong credit profile but also helps you avoid late payment fees and penalties. It is still a common misconception among cardholders that paying the minimum amount due on your credit card is enough to avoid negative impact on your credit score. While it is true that if you clear the minimum due by the due date, your credit score will not be affected, the remaining balance as well as all new transactions will start attracting interest until you pay the total amount due. Since credit card interest rates are quite high, even a small outstanding amount can quickly escalate to a large debt, which could be difficult to pay off. Hence, you must always pay the total amount due on your credit card to avoid creating a debt spiral.

Start early

A good credit profile is not built overnight but is a result of multiple credit activities over several years. Hence, availing a credit card in the beginning of the career can be quite beneficial in the long run. A longer history is indicative of your financial credibility and withstanding, helping lenders to understand how responsibly you have dealt with credit before.

Consumers who are not eligible for an entry-level unsecured credit card can consider applying for a secured credit card issued against a fixed deposit. While these cards might come with basic benefits and comparatively lower value-back potential, using them with discipline will work in your favour.

Another major factor that contributes towards your credit score is the Credit Utilisation Ratio (CUR). CUR shows the amount of credit that you have utilized in comparison to the total credit available with you. If you max out your credit cards regularly and struggle to make on time payments in full, it shows that you are highly dependent on credit and might make it difficult for you to avail credit in future. Thus, the lower the CUR the better it is. For consumers who own a single credit card, maintaining a low CUR could be difficult. In such cases, you can request your bank for a limit increase on your existing card or opt for a new credit card. Increased limit or the credit limit offered on your new card will add to the overall credit limit available with you, which, with responsible usage, will help you lower your CUR.

For example, if your credit limit is ₹2 lakh and you have used ₹1.7 lakh, your CUR would be 85%. If you get a new credit card with a credit limit of ₹2 lakh, your total credit limit will be ₹4 lakh. Now, if your expenses remain the same at ₹1.7 lakh, your overall CUR will reduce to 42.5%, which will positively affect your credit score.

Even though maintaining a low CUR is necessary, it is also important that you keep your credit card active. Many users believe that owning a credit card is enough to build a credit score. However, what is equally important is to keep the card active, make regular usage and on-time payments.

Building a strong credit profile takes time. Once you get a credit card and start using it, you should check your credit score and credit report regularly and track your growth. It will also help you identify any errors in your report and get them rectified at the earliest.

(The writer is Chief Product Officer, Paisabazaar)

Nudging investors for good

THINKINVESTOR

You may have to rebalance your portfolio annually. This is to reduce the risk of losing unrealised gains on your equity investments

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

The following discussion is food for thought. In this article, we discuss how asset management companies (AMCs) can nudge their index fund investors for good.

Rule-based profit taking

In a core-satellite framework, the core portfolio represents your goal-based investments, and the satellite portfolio refers to your trading account. The optimal way to create your core portfolio is to invest in passive funds for equity allocation and bank deposits for your bond allocation.

Now, consider your investments in passive funds. You may have to rebalance your portfolio annually. This is to reduce the risk of losing unrealised gains on your equity investments. But you cannot take out the entire gains because your returns must be allowed to compound annually to achieve a goal. Suppose you expect 12% annual pre-tax return on equity, you must leave 12% unrealised gains on your investments. But you can take out gains that are more than 12% in any year. This requires you to sell your ETF units or redeem units in your index fund.

That is easier said than done. You must manually redeem the units to take profits. Many individuals may fail to do so for various reasons. For one, you may forget to do it due to work-related pressure. For another, strong inertia will prompt you to postpone the decision to take profits. Research in behavioural finance shows that a simple nudge can go a long way in helping individuals take the necessary action. So, why not have the AMC nudge the investors to redeem the units annually when unrealized gains in the fund is more than a pre-determined threshold? Note that the redemption will attract taxes and may have to be a deliberate decision. Also, note that the redemption proceeds must preferably be invested in a bank fixed deposit. The fixed deposit can be withdrawn, and the amount reinvested in equity during years when unrealised gains from the fund is lower than the pre-tax expected return.

Conclusion

The nudge an AMC designs should inform each investor how many units they should redeem in the index fund based on a pre-determined annual threshold. This requires a simple arithmetic that a program can easily handle based on an investor's account details. True, suggesting investors to redeem may not be financially optimal for an AMC, as it reduces their AUM. But the action may foster long-term goodwill; for the AMC would have nudged their investors for good.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.25	7.50	7.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.00	6.75	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.50	7.25	7.25
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.00	9.00	8.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.65	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.25	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.85	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.20	7.00	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.85	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.25	7.00	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.75	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.05	7.10	7.55	7.40
Federal Bank	7.40	6.80	7.00	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.25	6.6	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.20	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.90	6.50	7.25	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.99	7.75	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.25	7.10	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.40	7.10	7.00	6.20
RBL Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	8.25	7.10	7.60	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.25	6.70	6.70	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	8	7.25	7.25	7.25
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.85	7.25	6.50
Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	7.25	6.85	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.30	6.85	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.30	6.90	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.25	6.20	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.75	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.35-10.75	8.35-10.90	8.35-10.90
Punjab National Bank	8.45-10.25	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.15
Bank of India	8.40-10.85	8.40-10.85	8.40-10.85
Canara Bank	8.50-11.25	8.45-11.25	8.40-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.40-10.60	8.40-10.60	8.40-10.60
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*
ICICI Bank	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
Axis Bank	8.75-13.30	8.75-13.30	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.50*	8.50*	8.50*
South Indian Bank	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70
Karur Vysya Bank	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05
Karnataka Bank	8.50-10.62	8.50-10.62	8.50-10.62
Federal Bank	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.16-15.00	9.16-13.33	9.16-13.33
RBL Bank	8.90*	8.90*	8.90*
CSB Bank	10.73-12.58	10.73-12.58	10.73-12.58
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50*	8.50*	8.50*
Tata Capital	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00*	10.00*	10.00*
Aditya Birla Capital	8.60*	8.60*	8.60*
ICICI Home Finance	9.10*	9.10*	9.10*
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55*	8.55*	8.55*

*Onwards Rates as on June 19 Source:Paisabazaar.com

BEIRUT

Hezbollah targets Israeli barracks after Islamist commander's death

AP

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group said on Sunday it had targeted two military positions in northern Israel with an armed drone in response to the killing of an Islamist commander. Hezbollah said its fighters launched a strike on a military leadership position in the Beit Hillel barracks. No injuries were reported. AFP

MOSCOW

6 policemen, priest dead as gunmen hit synagogue, churches in Russia

REUTERS

Gunmen on Sunday attacked a synagogue and churches, killing a priest and six police troops in Russia's Caucasus region of Dagestan. The attacks took place in Dagestan's largest city of Makhachkala and in the coastal city of Derbent. Dagestan is a largely Muslim region of Russia bordering Georgia and Azerbaijan. AFP

ISLAMABAD

23 held for involvement in tourist's lynching in Pakistan's Swat town

AFP

The Pakistan police have arrested more than 20 people for alleged involvement in the lynching of a tourist in the town of Swat for allegedly desecrating the Koran. The police arrested 23 people for alleged involvement in the man's lynching and the arson attack on the Madyan police station, media reports said on Sunday. PTI

CAIRO/RIYADH

98 Indian Hajis among more than 1,000 who died in scorching heat

REUTERS

More than 1,000 people died during Haj this year as extreme heat hammered the nearly two million who took part in the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. The victims included 672 Egyptians, 236 Indonesians and 98 Indians. Further deaths were reported by Tunisia, Jordan, Iran, and Senegal, taking the toll to 1,114. REUTERS

Israeli soldiers tie wounded man to military jeep in West Bank raid

The 24-year-old resident of Jenin refugee camp suffers burns on his back from being tied to the military jeep in the scorching summer heat; military admits that the conduct of the forces does not conform to the values of the IDF

Agence France-Presse
JENIN

Israeli troops tied a wounded Palestinian to a military vehicle during a raid in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, the Army said on Sunday, admitting that soldiers had violated operational procedures.

Footage of the incident, which occurred on Saturday, shows a man strapped horizontally to the bonnet of a military jeep as it passes through a narrow alley.

Medics identified the Palestinian as Mujahid Raed Abbadi, 24, who said he lives in the Jenin refugee camp.

Muted response: Activists covered in fake blood lie on the ground during an anti-government protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday. AFP

The military said a Palestinian man was wounded during a "counterterrorism operation" to arrest wanted suspects in the area of Wadi Burqin, between the town of Burqin and Jenin.

During an exchange of fire between troops and militants in Burqin's Jabriyat neighbourhood, a Palestinian was wounded and apprehended, the military said in a statement.

The military said: "In violation of orders and standard operating procedures, the suspect was taken by the forces while tied on top of a vehicle."

He was later transferred to the Palestinian Red Crescent for treatment, it said.

"The conduct of the forces in the video of the incident does not conform to the values of the IDF (military)," the statement said. "The incident will be investigated and dealt with accordingly."

Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur, suggested the troops were using Mr. Abbadi to shield themselves from gunfire.

The doctor treating Mr. Abbadi said "he has burns on his back from neck to lower back" from being tied to the military jeep in the scorching summer heat.

Jenin has long been a stronghold for Palestinian militant groups, and the Israeli Army routinely carries out raids in the city and an adjacent refugee camp.

Violence in the West Bank, which had already surged before the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7, has only escalated since.

At least 553 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank by Israeli troops or settlers since the Gaza war broke out.

Russia blames U.S. for missile attack on Crimea

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian officials said a missile exploded above a beach area of the city of Sevastopol, firing shrapnel at people relaxing there. REUTERS

Russia on Sunday said the United States had responsibility for a Ukrainian missile attack on Russian-annexed Crimea, which it said killed five persons, including three children, and wounded over 100.

A missile exploded above a beach area of the city of Sevastopol, firing shrapnel at people relaxing there, Russian-appointed officials said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said Washington and Kyiv bore "responsibility for a deliberate missile strike on peaceful residents", which it said used U.S.-supplied ATACMS missiles.

Sevastopol governor Mikhail Razvozhayev said three children and two adults had died and almost 120 people were injured.

The Black Sea port city and naval base on the Crimean peninsula was annexed by Russia in 2014 but is still internationally recognised as part of Ukraine.

Sevastopol regularly comes under fire from Ukraine but Sunday's attack was unusually deadly.

Razvozhayev said the attack hit Uchkuyevka, an area with sandy beaches and hotels.

The investigative committee, which probes major crimes, said it was opening an investigation into "a terrorist act".

Former Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia is on her 'deathbed', says BNP leader

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Accusing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of a "personal political vendetta" against her predecessor and political rival Khaleda Zia, a senior leader from her party on Sunday said she was on her "deathbed" as she had been deprived of advanced medical treatment abroad.

A report in *The Daily Star* said that Khaleda Zia, 78, was rushed to Evercare Hospital here in an ambulance around 3.30 a.m. on Saturday as she suddenly fell ill at her residence, 'Firoza', in Gulshan.

Khaleda Zia

Ms. Hasina's action is a result of "personal political vendetta," Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secretary-general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged and said, "It's our misfortune that our leader Khaleda Zia is now in critical condition on her deathbed without receiving any (necessary) medical treatment (abroad)." She was quickly admitted to the CCU, where her medical treatment began under the supervision of a medical board.

The BNP leader further alleged that Ms. Zia has been imprisoned for a long period due to the vindictiveness of the current "oppressive fascist" government, the news portal said.

Ms. Khaleda, who was the Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996 and then again from 2001 to 2006, fell ill while staying in Old Dhaka Central Jail, but no medical treatment was provided to her there, he said.

"Although she was allowed to stay at home, she is actually under complete confinement and remains imprisoned," he said.

"The BNP chief complained repeatedly, but the government did not pay heed and did not provide her with medical care. Later, when she was taken to the hospital (by the jail authorities), she did not receive any proper treatment there either," Alamgir said.

Poll shows France's far-right National Rally is still leading ahead of election

Reuters
PARIS

France's far-right National Rally (RN) party and its allies are seen leading the first round of the country's parliamentary elections with 35.5% of the vote, according to a poll published on Sunday.

The Ipsos survey – conducted for *Le Parisien* newspaper and Radio France on June 19-20 – showed the left-wing New Popular Front (NPF) alliance in second place with 29.5% of the vote.

French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance was seen in third place, winning 19.5% of votes.

Popular choice: In a separate survey, Marine Le Pen's RN is seen as the most trustworthy when it comes to managing the economy. AFP

The turnout rate is seen at between 60% and 64%, which would be much higher than the 47.5% seen at the last general election in June 2022.

The RN's lead in polls ahead of the election that will take place in two rounds, on June 30 and July 7, is unlikely to win the party an absolute majority. Mr. Macron called the ballot after his alliance's crushing defeat at EU elections earlier this month.

In a separate Ipsos survey, published by the *Financial Times*, the National Rally is seen as the most trustworthy when it comes to managing the economy and public finances.

According to the survey, 25% of respondents trust Marine Le Pen's RN the most to take the right decisions on economic issues.

Sport

Smriti falls short of a third successive century as India sweeps series

SA IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

India handed South Africa a six-wicket thrashing to complete a 3-0 sweep of the ODI series, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday.

Chasing 216, the host romped home with more than nine overs to spare, with Smriti Mandhana adding another glorious chapter (90, 83b, 11x4) to her famed book of batting art. If not for a top-edge that landed in the hands of the short-fine fielder, it would have brought a third consecutive century, a stand-out achievement even in a trailblazing career as hers.

Even 10 runs short, the knock was just as dazzling, as Smriti drove, clipped and steered the ball effortlessly, ensuring that for the 15,000 adoring fans who had gathered to watch her, there would be no falsification of expectations.

Scintillating: Smriti was at her fluent best again. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sizeable contribution

Priya Punia, in for D. Hemalatha, made a sizeable contribution (28, 40b, 3x4, 1x6), and so did skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (42, 48b, 2x4). But for a second straight match, opener Shafali Verma got a start (25, 39b, 4x4), but did not make it count, with her penchant for hitting on the up proving fatal.

Earlier, South Africa, which opted to bat, began splendidly, with captain Laura Wolvaardt (61, 57b, 7x4) and Tazmin Brits (38, 66b, 2x4, 1x6) putting on 102 runs, a big upgrade from the highest of 14 this series. But Wolvaardt's dismissal, via a sharp catch by speedster Arundhati Reddy off her own bowling, triggered a collapse.

Brits sprinted for a non-existent single and was run out, while Anneke Bosch fell to another excellent caught-and-bowled effort by Arundhati (two for 36), with the latter's palm seeming as big as a baseball mitt.

And when Shreyanka Patil – who replaced leggie Asha Sobhana – sent back star batter Marizanne Kapp, the Proteas were reduced to 120 for four. There were small pockets of resistance from the likes of Nadine de Klerk (26, 46b) and Mieke de Ridder (26 n.o., 31b) that helped South Africa bat out the full quota of overs and add nearly 100 more runs. But they did nothing other than prolong the inevitable.

> The way our bowlers bowled in this series, credit goes to them. These conditions aren't the easiest. They were outstanding
>
> HARMANPREET

> I think we've played good cricket in patches. We need to be a lot more consistent with the bat and the ball
>
> WOLVAARDT

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

Laura Wolvaardt c & b Arundhati 61 *(57b, 7x4)*, Tazmin Brits run out 38 *(66b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Marizanne Kapp c & b Shreyanka 7 *(20b)*, Anneke Bosch c & b Arundhati 5 *(9b, 1x4)*, Sune Luus b Pooja 13 *(23b, 1x4)*, Nadine de Klerk b Deepti 26 *(46b, 2x4)*, Nondumiso Shangase run out 16 *(29b, 2x4)*, Meike de Ridder (not out) 26 *(31b, 2x4)*, Nonkululeko Mlaba b Deepti 0 *(1b)*, Tumi Sekhukhune (not out) 6 *(18b)*; Extras (b-6, lb-1, w-10): 17; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 215.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-102 (Wolvaardt, 19.5 overs), 2-104 (Brits, 20.6), 3-114 (Bosch, 23.5), 4-120 (Kapp, 26.4), 5-143 (Luus, 31.6), 6-174 (Shangase, 41.2), 7-178 (de Klerk, 42.3), 8-178 (Mlaba, 42.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Shreyanka 10-0-35-1, Arundhati 10-0-36-2, Pooja 9-0-54-1, Deepti 10-0-27-2, Radha 10-0-46-0, Smriti 1-0-10-0.

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana c Khaka b Mlaba 90 *(83b, 11x4)*, Shafali Verma c Bosch b Sekhukhune 25 *(39b, 4x4)*, Priya Punia c Bosch b Khaka 28 *(40b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Harmanpreet Kaur run out 42 *(48b, 2x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 19 *(31b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 6 *(3b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-8): 10; Total (for four wkts. in 40.4 overs): 220.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-61 (Shafali, 11.5), 2-123 (Priya, 22.5), 3-171 (Smriti, 30.4), 4-214 (Harmanpreet, 40.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Khaka 9-0-38-1, de Klerk 8-0-45-0, Sekhukhune 8.4-0-43-1, Mlaba 10-1-55-1, Shangase 5-0-37-0.

Toss: South Africa.

PoM: Deepti;

PoS: Smriti.

India won by six wickets with 56 balls remaining to sweep series 3-0.

M BG-BGE

AGONY TO ECSTASY

Couldn't sleep in Mumbai then and can't sleep here now: Rashid

AFP

Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan said he could not sleep after the loss against Australia in the 2023 ODI World Cup. "That was a night which didn't let me sleep. The game kept coming into my mind. I feel like I won't be able to sleep because of happiness tonight. That's how happy the whole team is," said Rashid.

MAKING IT A HABIT

Cummins claims back-to-back hat-tricks at T20 World Cup

GETTY IMAGES

Australia pacer Pat Cummins became the first bowler to register back-to-back hat-tricks in T20 World Cup [his first came against Bangladesh] during his team's Super 8 fixture against Afghanistan. "Crazy to get two in a row after playing 100-plus games for Australia," Cummins said.

RARING TO GO

Australia up for crucial India challenge, says skipper Marsh

GETTY IMAGES

Skipper Mitchell Marsh feels Australia tends to perform best with its back against the wall. "It will be against India and it's a must-win game. I think if you look back at the short history of this team, I know for a fact that it brings out the best in our guys. So, the boys will certainly be up and about for it," Marsh said.

LEGEND'S SUPPORT

If the Men in Maroon falter, I'm backing India, says Richards

BCCI

Sir Viv Richards visited the Indian team's dressing room and expressed his support for Rohit Sharma's side. "If the Men in Maroon falter, I'm backing you... Pant, it's great to see you back here after what you have been through," Richards said after presenting the fielding medal to Suryakumar Yadav.

Afghanistan humbles Australia, stays alive

The 118-run opening stand between Gurbaz and Zadran, Naveen's early strikes and Naib's four-for the highlight of Rashid & Co.'s 21-run victory over the 2021 champion; Group 1 race wide open

Buoyant: Afghanistan will now believe it can progress past the Super 8 stage. PTI

T20 WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
KINGSTOWN

Gulbadin Naib was Afghanistan's man with the golden arm, bowling his team to a tense 21-run victory over previously unbeaten Australia in a T20 World Cup Super 8 Group 1 encounter here on Saturday.

Set a target of 149, Glenn Maxwell (59 off 41 balls) kept Australia on course until he became Naib's third wicket in the 15th over, opening the door to a result which keeps the duel for semifinal spots alive going into the final two fixtures in the group.

Naib finished with four for 20 to turn the match as Australia suffered its first-ever defeat to the Afghans in a senior international encounter, being dismissed for 127.

Earlier, Pat Cummins claimed his second hat-trick in as many matches as Afghanistan lost momentum after another 100-plus opening stand from Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, settling for a total of 148 for six.

Both teams are on two points – with Australia facing India in its final match while Afghanistan plays Bangladesh.

The scores:
Afghanistan 148/6 in 20 overs (Gurbaz 60, Ibrahim Zadran 51, Cummins 3/28, Zampa 2/28) bt Australia 127 in 19.2 overs (Maxwell 59, Naveen 3/20, Naib 4/20).
Toss: Australia.
PoM: Naib.

Super 8 table

GROUP 1

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	2	2	0	4	2.425
Australia	2	1	1	2	0.223
Afghanistan	2	1	1	2	-0.650
Bangladesh	2	0	2	0	-2.489

GROUP 2

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
England (Q)	3	2	1	4	1.992
South Africa	2	2	0	4	0.625
West Indies	2	1	1	2	1.814
USA	3	0	3	0	-3.906

India takes on familiar foe Australia in a high-stakes match for both sides

Ayan Acharya
GROS ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

K-factor: India will look to Kuldeep and Kohli to deliver in the big game against the Aussies. K.R. DEEPAK

India will face old rival Australia in a crucial Super 8 match at the windswept Daren Sammy ground on Sunday. Australia needs a win after a historic defeat to Afghanistan in Saint Vincent. India is in a better position after defeating Bangladesh in Antigua, but its qualification isn't guaranteed yet. If both Australia and Afghanistan win, three teams will tie with four points, and net run rate will decide the standings.

However, a win against Australia will secure India's place in the next round. Australia can go through even if it loses to India. For that to happen, it would need Bangladesh to beat Afghanistan, which would create a three-way tie on two points. With the Aussies currently holding a better net run rate (0.223), they would just have to not lose big.

Permutations and combinations aside, the conditions in Gros Islet will be closely monitored. England played South Africa in a day game here on a fresh centre wicket that slowed down as the innings progressed. The 10:30 am start time might affect the moisture level, making bowling first an appealing option. However, batting first and taking advantage of field restrictions could significantly influence the outcome.

As far as India is concerned, there's little reason to tweak its combination, which includes three spinners. Mohammed Siraj is likely to remain on the bench.

Rohit Sharma has been dismissed three times by left-arm fast bowlers in this T20 World Cup. Australia will likely aim to exploit this weakness with Mitchell Starc, who could use the windy conditions to swing the ball into the right-hander. However, if there's no movement in the air, Rohit could take advantage of the short square boundaries, which are less than 70 meters long.

In the last match, England's spinners conceded 6.42 runs per over, while its pacers went at 8.84. Keshav Maharaj's 2 for 25 was crucial in preventing England from dominating the middle overs. Australia will rely on leggie Adam Zampa for control during overs 7 to 16, where he has taken 11 wickets at less than six runs per over in this edition and maintained a high dot-ball percentage. However, Suryakumar Yadav, with his medley of inside-out drives, sweeps and reverse sweeps, could be a challenge for Zampa, having scored 54 runs off 27 balls against him in four T20 innings, with only one dismissal.

If Ashton Agar's left-arm spin is deemed essential, deciding which fast bowler to drop will be a headache. Dropping Mitchell Starc against Afghanistan left Australia without its primary new-ball threat, although Agar's four-over spell was economical. However, Zampa and Maxwell are likely to provide spin in St Lucia, given India's left-hand heavy top eight.

Australia needs to improve its fielding after a poor showing against Afghanistan. For India, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh are expected to stick to their unwavering consistency at the top using the wind to their advantage.

Group 1 is heading for a tense finale.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, and Mohammed Siraj.
Australia: Mitchell Marsh (Capt.), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, and Adam Zampa.

Today's matches

Antigua, 6.00 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 22
West Indies 11 | South Africa 11

St. Lucia, 8.00 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 31
Australia 11 | India 19 | NR 1

Jordan's 'trick, Buttler's blitz seal England's semifinal spot

Agence France-Presse
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Unprecedented: Jordan became the first bowler to perform a hat-trick in a men's T20I for England. PTI

Skipper Jos Buttler led the way with a 38-ball unbeaten 83 after Chris Jordan's four-wicket burst, including a hat-trick, as defending champion England stormed into the ICC T20 World Cup semifinals with a 10-wicket rout of USA here on Sunday.

Buttler smashed six fours and seven sixes, five of them off left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh in the ninth over, as England cruised past the 116-run target in just 9.4 overs.

Earlier, pacer Jordan grabbed a hat-trick in an incisive spell of four for 10 as the Englishmen skittled out tournament co-hosts USA for 115.

Returning to the side in place of Mark Wood, Jordan took his four wickets off five balls in the penultimate over.

Off the first ball of the over, Jordan saw Corey Anderson hit a fast and low full toss to Harry Brook at long-on. Two deliveries later, he castled Ali-Khan for a duck. Nosthush Kenjige was adjudged leg-before wicket despite a desperate review, and Jordan completed a hat-trick by bowling Saurabh Netravalkar between bat and pad.

The Englishman became the second bowler to perform a hat-trick in this edition, with Australia's Pat Cummins achieving the feat against Bangladesh and Afghanistan in back-to-back matches.

Jordan's hat-trick was the first for England in a men's T20 international. Nat Sciver-Brunt and Anya Shrubsole have taken three-in-three for the women's side.

Earlier, Adil Rashid delivered a miserly spell (two for 13) while Sam Curran also picked up two wickets.

The scores: USA 115 in 18.5 overs (Nitish 30, Anderson 29, Curran 2/23, Adil Rashid 2/13, Jordan 4/10) lost to England 117/0 in 9.4 overs (Salt 25 n.o., Buttler 83 n.o.); **Toss:** England; **PoM:** Adil Rashid.

Wounded Australia has to stop spearhead Bumrah more than any other Indian player

Sunil Gavaskar

Afghanistan's stunning win over Australia means that for the Aussies the game against India becomes a must win game.

Afghanistan play Bangladesh in the evening after the India and Australia match and will know the result. And if Australia have lost, then all they have to do is beat Bangladesh to qualify for the semis. If India have been beaten, then Rashid will know what margin his team needs to beat Bangladesh to get into the semis. Afghanistan will be ruing the scale of their loss to India, for that doesn't help their net run-rate. The way some of their batters threw their wickets away was indicative of a lack of thinking and appreciation of what was needed to stay in the hunt for a place in the semis. They now have a splendid opportunity to do so. The pitch at St. Vincent is certainly helping the spinners and Bangladesh has got a clutch of them too so it won't be easy against them.

Australia know that India will not make it easy. Having beaten Afghanistan quite easily, the Indians would definitely want the Afghans to be in the knockout stages. They showed that they were not going to let up and beat Bangladesh comfortably too. Bangladesh may have erred in opting to field first for after India set them a near 200 target they needed to get a good start. How could they get that against an attack led by Jasprit Bumrah? This man is a phenomenon, pure and simple. He has a run-up and action that is impossible to copy. Added to that is the priceless ability to suss a batter and almost read his mind and bowl accordingly making the batter look utterly silly.

His humility is seen by how he tries to learn by watching how other teams new ball bowlers operate and to see if he can bring any of that and add to his repertoire. Always the student and not the master and so keeping his eyes and ears open to learn as much as possible and get better at his craft. And craft it definitely is for to be able to land the ball unnervingly where he wants to is a skill that is rare and given to few.

India is lucky to have Bumrah in its ranks. He must be celebrated with equal if not more fervour than our brilliant batters. See how he and his bowling partners saved the batters blushes against Pakistan defending a paltry total.

Yes sir, Australia know that if they want to beat India and qualify for the semifinal they have to stop Bumrah more than any other Indian player.

(Professional Management Group)

INBRIEF

UEFA fines Croatia for fan trouble at Euro 2024

UEFA has fined the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) for the incidents that occurred in the stands during Croatia's 2-2 draw with Albania at Euro 2024, the national federation said on Saturday. The HNS published a statement on its website saying that it will have to pay a fine of €28,000 due to the "lighting of flares and throwing of objects by some Croatian fans during the match played on June 19 in Hamburg".

Sahaja Yamalapalli loses in the semifinals

Sahaja Yamalapalli lost 4-6, 6-0, 5-7 to Victoria Hu in the semifinals of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Wichita, USA. In a three-hour battle, Sahaja won more points 104-98, and broke serve seven times to six by her opponent, but failed to convert a game point that would have forced the tie-break in the decider.

Murray out of Wimbledon after back surgery: ATP

Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray has been ruled out of this year's tournament after undergoing back surgery, the ATP Tour confirmed on Sunday. "After an operation on a spinal cyst, Andy Murray is sadly out of Wimbledon," the ATP posted on X.

Martinez hails Portugal star Pepe's 'love for the game'

Portugal veteran Pepe is the oldest player ever to appear at the European Championship but that did not stop him being one of the best performers in the side's dominating win over Turkiye as coach Roberto Martinez described the 41-year-old as a "wonderful example". Pepe was outstanding as he marshalled the back line alongside Ruben Dias in Portugal's 3-0 victory on Saturday. "If there was a neutral guy watching the game and he saw Pepe playing he would never believe he is 41-years-old," Martinez said. "He is an example, a professional, the way he reads the game, the way he competes. He uses the 24 hours to be a professional footballer," Martinez added. "We all know players who maybe only spend two hours a day preparing themselves. Pepe doesn't do that. He uses 24 hours to get himself recovered. When he is not recovering he makes sure he gets good sleep."

LIVE TELECAST

T20 World Cup: India vs Australia, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m, & 6 a.m. (Tuesday)

Football: Euro 2024, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Belgium breathes new life into its title challenge

Smarting from the loss in the first game against Slovakia, Tielemans put the Belgians ahead in the second minute while De Bruyne added another late in the second half against Romania

Agence France-Presse
COLOGNE

Sliding strike: De Bruyne scores Belgium's second against Romania. AP

Youri Tielemans breathed new life into Belgium's Euro 2024 campaign as the Aston Villa midfielder's goal after just 73 seconds inspired a vital 2-0 win against Romania on Saturday.

Domenico Tedesco's side would have been on the brink of elimination if it had suffered a second successive Group E defeat.

But Tielemans' second-minute strike eased fears of yet another major tournament flop from star-studded Belgium.

Wrapping it up

Kevin De Bruyne wrapped up the points in the closing stages to leave all four teams in the group level on three points.

The stage is set for a dramatic final round of fixtures in the battle to reach the last 16.

Belgium faces Ukraine and Romania plays Slovakia on June 26.

With 45 rungs separating the two nations in FIFA's rankings, third-placed Belgium's 1-0 loss to Slovakia on Monday was the biggest upset in European Championship history.

Competing gamely

Romania, ranked in 47th place, competed gamely as it chased its own shock, but this time Belgium's superior class proved decisive.

"I have the same feeling as against Slovakia: we played well but the difference is that we scored and won today," said Belgium captain De Bruyne.

"We made a few mistakes and gave away a few chances, but we can be satisfied with our performance, both offensively and defensively."

Having bowed out at the group stage of the 2022 World Cup and lost in the quarterfinals of the last two Euros, Belgium's golden generation has given itself fresh hope of finally delivering on its vast potential.

Romania had powered to a 3-0 win against Ukraine on Monday – its first victory in a major tournament since beating England at Euro 2000.

Despite this loss, Edward Iordanescu's team is still in contention to make the Euro knockout stage for the first time in 24 years.

The results: Group E: Belgium 2 (Tielemans 2, De Bruyne 79) bt Romania 0.

Italy and Croatia clash with survival at stake

Associated Press
LEIPZIG

Defending champion Italy needs to avoid defeat against Croatia in its final group game to ensure progress at the European Championship. Croatia can progress with a win, or by avoiding defeat as long as Albania does not beat group-winner Spain in the other Group B game at the same time.

The standings

Italy has three points while Croatia and Albania have one point each. Albania has the better goal difference.

Luciano Spalletti's team will be keen to impress after being thoroughly outclassed by Spain. Italy only lost by a goal, but the Italian players spent most of the game chasing Spanish shadows and were saved embarrassment by captain and goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Italy left-back Federico Dimarco is expected to miss the game with a right calf injury. Croatia will be without midfielder Nikola Vlacic, who is no longer with the squad because of an injury, while veteran defender Domagoj Vida missed Saturday's training session with an ankle injury.

Super subs do it for Venezuela, Mexico edges past Jamaica

COPA AMERICA

Agence France-Presse
SANTA CLARA

Immediate impact: Cadiz celebrates after Venezuela's opener soon after coming on. AP

Goals from substitutes Jhonder Cadiz and Eduard Bello gave Venezuela a 2-1 win over 10-man Ecuador in their Copa America Group B match on Saturday.

In the group's other game, Mexico made a winning start to its campaign with a 1-0 victory over Jamaica in Houston but lost its captain Edson Alvarez to injury. Ecuador was forced to play with 10 men from the 22nd minute of the game at Levi Stadium.

Striker Enner Valencia struck the chest of Jose Martinez with his boot while challenging for a high ball in the box and was initially awarded a yellow card but after a VAR review he was shown a straight red. Ecuador responded well and went ahead in the 40th minute when Venezuela failed to clear a free-kick and Jeremy Sarmiento pounced on the loose ball. Venezuela coach Fernando Batista made two changes at the break, bringing on Cadiz and Bello and both were to make a decisive impact.

"Vinotinto" striker Salomon Rondon laid the ball off to Cadiz, whose low side-footed shot flashed past Ecuador keeper Alexander Dominguez

Then, in the 74th minute, Alexander Gonzalez whipped in a cross from the right, met with a diving header from Rondon which was parried by Dominguez but Bello reacted to fire home the loose ball.

Mexico laboured for long stretches against Jamaica before a 69th-minute goal from Gerardo Arteaga earned it the three points.

The results: Ecuador 1 (Sarmiento 40) lost to Venezuela 2 (Cadiz 64, Bello 74); Mexico 1 (Arteaga 69) bt Jamaica 0.

Dhiraj's showing leads India to two recurve bronze medals

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

B. Dhiraj led India to two bronze medals in recurve competitions on the final day of the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey, on Sunday.

Dhiraj combined with Bhajan Kaur to deliver the mixed team bronze before securing the men's individual bronze.

The Indians rallied from a set down to beat the Mexican pair of Matias Grande and Alejandra Valencia 5-3 (35-38, 40-39, 38-37, 38-38) to take the third place.

Dhiraj and Bhajan, who could not hit a 10 in the opening set, improved their game to score at least two 10s in the next three sets to ensure a podium finish.

Dhiraj, who landed an individual bronze in Stage-1 in Antalya in April last year, collected another individual bronze at one of his favourite venues.

The Indian lost his semifinal match to Korean World and Olympic gold medallist Kim Woojin 6-2 (29-29, 27-30, 29-29, 27-29), but bounced back to defeat Italian Mauro Nespoli 7-3 (28-27, 29-28, 27-28, 28-28, 29-30) for the bronze.

Fight back

After taking two sets, Dhiraj, who is the only archer from the country to qualify for Paris 2024 so far, saw Nespoli fight back and close the gap to 4-2 and share the honours in the fourth to make it 5-3.

But the Indian held his nerve to shoot three perfect shots in the final set and claim a morale-boosting medal ahead of the Olympics.

Ankita Bhakat lost her semifinal and bronze medal contests to China's Yang Xiaolei (6-2) and Mexico's Alejandra (7-3) respectively.

NADA re-imposes provisional suspension on Bajrang

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

World and Olympic medal winning wrestler Bajrang Punia has been provisionally suspended again after the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) formally issued the 'notice of charge' to the athlete.

Bajrang, who was earlier provisionally suspended by NADA for allegedly refusing to give his urine sample at the National selection trials at Sonipat on March 10, had got a reprieve after a disciplinary panel revoked his suspension on the procedural ground that the athlete had not been served the notice of charge.

Bajrang's counsel Vidushpat Singhania confirmed the reimposition of the suspension on the ace wrestler.

Verstappen makes it three in a row in Spain

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
BARCELONA

On the podium: Verstappen, the winner, is flanked by second-placed Norris and Hamilton. REUTERS

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix for the third year in a row on Sunday after McLaren's pole-sitter Lando Norris lost out at the start and finished 2.2 seconds behind.

First podium

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton was third, his first podium appearance of the season, with Mercedes teammate George Russell fourth on a sunny afternoon at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya.

The Dutch driver extended his championship lead to a hefty 69 points, with Norris moving up to become the triple world champion's closest rival and also taking a bonus point for the fastest lap.

Norris paid the price for a slow start, dropping to third into the first corner after squeezing Verstappen onto the grass while Russell rocketed past from the second row to take them both and lead the field.

"I did a bit of rallying. I think we slowed each other down," commented Verstappen afterwards.

Verstappen, who started alongside Norris in the front row, was leading by lap three, and then built a buffer to take control.

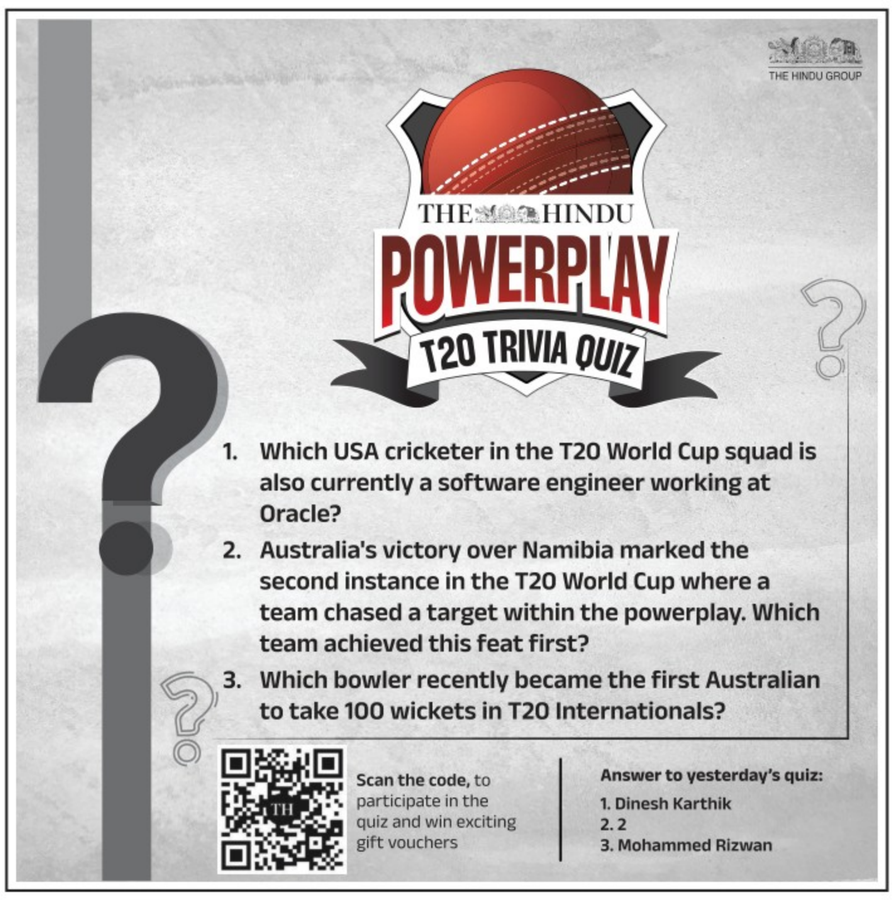
"I think what made the race was the beginning," he said.

"I took the lead... and made that first stint where I could eke out a gap a little bit. After that we had to drive kind of a defensive race.

"Lando and McLaren were very quick today... I think we did everything well, we had quite an aggressive strategy but luckily it played out to the end."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was fifth, after taking the chequered flag just 0.3 behind Russell, and teammate Carlos Sainz sixth in front of his home crowd.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri was seventh, Red Bull's Sergio Perez eighth, with Alpine duo Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon taking the final points.

The win was Verstappen's seventh in 10 races so far this season, and 61st of his career.

He now has 219 points to Norris' 150 and Leclerc's 148.